



The Pioneers

HISTORY OF 1ST PMA LONG COURSE

We arrive with a vision on 18th January 1948



62 of us Passed out on 4th February, 1950 with the
Dedicated Commitment to Serve the Cause of the Country
and the Army, even at the Peril of our lives...
This Monument is Located at the Army Museum





1st PMA LONG Course

Written and Compiled

By

Brig (Retd) Mian Muhammad Mahmud

Dedicated to the

Martyrs of 1st PMA Long Course

And

The Holders of Nishan-e-Haider

جب تک نہ جلیں دیپ شہیدوں کے لہو سے
کہتے ہیں جنت میں چراغاں نہیں ہوتا



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Graduates of 1st PMA Long Coursed



- 1st Row Standing** Yusuf Ali, Hayat Ullah, Jahan Dad, Sardar Ahmad, Iqbal Hussain, Abdullah Malik, Mohammad Ahmad, Saadat Ali, Ishtiaq Gilani, Mufti Wajahat, Hamid Shigri, Muzaffar Malik, Fazal ur Raheem, Nasir Ullah Babar
- 2nd Row Standing** H.R.Qadri, Saeed Malik, Abid Hussain, Akhtar Rizwani, Aziz Alam, M.H.Tiwana, Asad Khan, Riaz Khan. Xair Hussain Hussain, Ejaz Vahidy, Asghar Jilani, Ayaz Khan Wazir, Safdar Butt
- 3rd Row Standing** Zafar Hashmat, Hussan Durrani, Mian Mahmud, Nazir ul Haq, Aziz ur Rahman, M.Z.Hamid, Ijaz ud Din, Azhar Syes, Qazi M.R. , R.A.S.Bokhari, Saeed Khan (Not 1st PMA)^h
- 4th Row Standing** Kaleem ur Rahman, M.H.Mubarik (NOT 1st PMA) , Muin Faruqi, Abdul Nayeem, Mohahammad Raza, Dildar Rana, Mohammad Akhtar, Mahmud Kreashi, Mohammad Saleh, Sardar Shikoh, Rajab A. Wazir, Jahanzeb Bangash

We Arrive With a Vision

Preface

1st PMA Long Course embarked on its historic and epic making journey on 18th January 1948. We arrived at Kakul, with a dream and a mission. As the pioneers, we were to set the true national spirit of a newly emerging Pakistan Military Academy, its freshly raised Army and these to be imbued with the feelings and emotions that created Pakistan.

We strived and we toiled while at the Academy, our entire Army career and also in the post retirement period, with the innate desire that we set some lofty standards and traditions. We hope we succeeded...!

In the twilight years of our life, when the time was fast approaching for our Diamond Jubilee, it was suggested at our last reunion, that we should compile our history. We kept drifting without any meaningful progress. It was only a few months ago that Major General Syed Shakeel Hussain, who made a strong and compassionate suggestion, that we owe it to our course and the PMA, to leave behind an authentic history; an account of individual and collective performances and contributions. Since then the work started on a very feverish pitch and tempo. Again it was Major General Syed Shakeel Hussain, who very meticulously, with painstaking efforts and with a clear vision and purpose; organized all the support towards accomplishing this goal. He motivated Brigadier Raheel Asghar, who had 6 years' experience as an academic instructor at PMA, to help and assist. He has been forthcoming most willingly and readily. We owe them both a very special gratitude.



In computerizing all the pictures, in fact many of them very historic, and doing the work of digital imaging, we were very valuably assisted by the Fuji Films of Pakistan. This gratis work, but most professional, would not have been possible without the able direction and consent of its CEO, Mr. Jameel Husain, who happens to be the eldest son of Brigadier Zair Hussain. To this course mate, we are grateful for all the direct and indirect support provided in accomplishing the task. The local Area Manager, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Dar, undoubtedly, figures as the key man who handled the entire laborious and lengthy task; without which it would not have been possible to accomplish the task so well. We equally owe him our heartfelt and deep appreciation for his most valuable support provided and record the same.

We equally want to acknowledge all the efforts made by our different colleagues and their families for providing all the invaluable description along with the most historic and memorable photographs of our old colleagues.

This makes the history truly reflective and presents a graphic picture of the course on the wide canvass of our over 75 year's old associations, contributions and humble service that we could make for the Army and the country.

With the hope and prayer; we compile this history so that we leave our name behind in the annals of the history of creation and the growth of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, this Army and the Country, and the role we played.

May Allah always bless and guide this nation towards its truly destined goals and objectives.



Maj Gen Syed Shakeel Hussain



Brig Raheel Asghar

We had started compiling our history at the time when our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Monument was being un-Veiled at PMA, Kakul, on 4th February, 2010. Since then we have continued the work to make it all embracing, complete and with all the detailed descriptions that we could gather from all available sources. We are grateful that many families of our deceased colleagues have played a major role in this and provided us with write ups and very memorable pictures, which now are part of this book, to give it a much broader coverage of our Course. But still out of the 62 of us who passed out on 4th February 1950, we have been able to incorporate the account of only 30 of our colleagues. We started the work rather late and we have lost contacts with many of the families of our Course Mates. We will continue to make all efforts to contact as many of the families of our deceased colleagues as we can. If we receive any write ups, we will be too pleased to add it to our old memories of the days spent together; it will also give the additional coverage that we all desire.

Foremost, we hope that we can leave behind an account which is worthy of our Course, being the Pioneers of this Academy. May it also be historic, inspiring, and credible and reminder of what we stood, and achieved.

Brigadier (Retd) Mian Muhammad Mahmud



Diamond Jubilee Ceremony - 04 February, 2010



Graduation Ceremony 04 Feb 1950

CHAPTER 1

WE HAD A DREAM

On 4th Feb, 2000, when we stood in front of the monument raised at Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Graduation of our course, our minds were floating to the future, wondering who amongst us would be privileged to attend the august occasion of the Platinum Jubilee function. We were aware of the majesty of this occasion laced with the past of the first generation of romantic soldiers, its historic singularity and importance. The question arising then and reverberating like a constant reminder is, did we measure up to the expectations of those who were to become the pioneers of this most august institution called the Pakistan Military Academy. It is not for us to pass any judgment. It will be the privilege of the later courses following us and their objective analysts to judge us. But before we submit ourselves to the eye of a critic, just like we did on that day on 14th August, 1947, we wish to leave behind an excerpt of our aspirations, idealism and what we stood for, what we did and what we failed to do. The aim of this historic brief would be to capture the spirit, motivation and our cherishment of the goals we strived and yearned for; a narration of our romantic idealism in contrast to what we could achieve, commencing from the cradle of PMA, our life in the Army and the post retirement period.

...Down the Memory Lane

A look into our past would, hopefully, bring out the diversity in our background. It is most befitting that our course had representation from not only all nooks and corners of what became Pakistan, but there was also a batch of 12 Cadets who had been selected from India and had desired to join the Pakistan Military Academy. Out of these, Mohammad Ahmad had been selected for the 4th IMA Course, but he opted for joining the Pakistan Army. The other 11 appeared for their interview with the Inter Services Selection Board located at Dacca, and were picked up for reporting to PMA. Colonel Habib Ullah (Later Lieutenant General) was heading this Board at Dacca. They arrived after a journey by ship from Chittagong to Karachi and then onward to Kakul by train. For the journey at the sea, they traveled in a troop ship and were attached to the lungar of the unit being shifted back to West Pakistan, for their meals. This was their first taste of the Army food.

All of us had different recollections of our childhood, our upbringing and what vision we had at the time that we decided to join the Army. One thing was common. It was that our young and impressionable hearts were throbbing with the desire to serve our National Army and the newly carved country on the map of the world, Pakistan. It was a passion. We had all witnessed the historic events leading to the creation of this country. In fact, most of us had participated in the movement for the demand of a home land for the Muslims of India. Some were privileged to even be present in the Pandal at The Minto Park, Lahore on 23rd March, 1940, where the historic and monumental decision to formally place this demand was echoed by the Quaid-I-Azam in his clear, articulate and firm voice. It was inspiring.

Out of the original memories, what we can recall in the way of our perceptions of the background, the environment and the general atmosphere we all grew up; the experience of GC Mohammad Ayaz Khan Wazir is rather unique. He belonged to Khusali Tori Khel Tribe of North Waziristan Agency. Amongst the Wazir Tribe, education was a taboo at that time. It was considered that it makes a man coward. His father, who was the

head of his tribe, decided to break this jinx. M.A.K. Wazir was sent to Bannu for formal education and thus he set precedence for the other youth of the area. He could be described as the pioneer and the role model in his own tribe of what the Holy “Koran” enjoins on all Muslims; “Iqra.” His education had a temporary setback and was interrupted by again a very historic incident in the area.

It was around the year 1936 that as M.A.K. Wazir remembers, this incident took place. It was the case of a Hindu girl embracing Islam and marrying a Muslim boy in Bannu. This led to sudden heightening of tensions between the Muslims and the Hindus of the area. The Hindu Community were all up in protests and demanded from the British Government, the custody of this Hindu girl back to them. The British authorities interceded and the newly married Hindu girl, who had become a Muslim, was handed back in the custody of her family. This led to a very strong reaction in the Tribal Area and in particular, North Waziristan. Ayaz’s education too was suspended and he moved back to live with his family. He vividly remembers and recalls that a person by the name of Mirza Ali Khan, an Imam in the EPI Tribe of Daur village, rose against this injustice and high handedness of the British. He started his resistance against them and the open hostilities ensued. This unknown man later became famous and was known and revered by the name of Faqir of Epi. He became a household name and a legend; he left a very important print in the History of the area. During those turbulent days, the whole family of Ayaz moved into the large caves that abounded the area. They were obliged to do so, because the Royal Indian Air Force had been commissioned into the area to carry intensive and regular bombing and rocketing of those positions which were held by the Faqir of Epi and his men. It was a very early battlefield inoculation for Ayaz; before he became a cadet. This fighting lasted for about six months. Eventually the British had to give in to all the demands of the Wazir Tribe and the peace prevailed in the area. This also allowed Ayaz to resume his studies. Just when Pakistan was created, he took his decision to join the National Army, and was selected for the 1st PMA Long Course. GC M.A.K. Wazir lived his life in PMA, fruitfully served in the Army and then retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Pakistan Army. He relishes with pride his decision, and fondly remembers his associations with his other comrades from his course along with his entire experience in the cause of this Army and the Country.

GC Mian Fazal Ur Raheem and GC Jahandad Khan, after doing their Matriculation, both joined Islamia College, Peshawar for their further studies. At the time, it was the best residential college in the Province, and the promising students of NWFP, FATA and Baluchistan chose to study there. It was founded by Sahibzada Sir Abdul Qayyum on the pattern of Muslim University, Aligarh. Fazal Ur Raheem was allotted a room in Usmania Hostel, which owed its grandeur to a generous donation by H.R.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad. The college had an excellent faculty. The Principal, Dr. Omar Hayat Malik, had Ph. D in Mathematics from UK. The other staff at the college was also very highly qualified.

In 1944, Raheem took keen interest in the elections to the Khyber Union. Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, the youngest son of Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the great Pakhtun leader of the 20th Century, got elected as the President and Raheem was voted in as the Secretary. After his election, Raheem went over to meet Mr. Abdul Ali Khan for a courtesy call. He met him very warmly and cordially and even before Raheem could shake hands with him he said, “Welcome, Raheem. We shall run the union totally in the greatest interest of the student community, irrespective of our political views, whatever they may be.” He lived up to his promise and later retired as a great educationalist. Raheem, fondly remembers his association with him and recalls having learnt a great deal from him.

Another very significant event that he recalls of his college days was the visit of Quaid-I-Azam to Peshawar in 1945. He vividly remembers his address to the Muslim League gathering in Peshawar. He said, “We have no

friends. Neither the British nor the Hindus are our friends. We are clear in our mind that we must have a firm resolve to fight both of them. We shall fight their united might. We will never be afraid." When the Quaid asked the crowd, whether they wanted Pakistan or not; they all in full excitement, in one voice, in total commitment, and in full unison raised the vociferous slogans of "Allah-o-Akbar." It fully and explicitly explained the sentiments and the feelings of the people.

Both Jahandad and Raheem applied for Commission in the Pakistan Army soon after the creation of the country and were selected for the 1st PMA Long Course.

Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, had a very good share of its representation in the course. There were six cadets who had studied there and had been already grinded into the way of life in the Army. They were namely, Izzat Hayat Khan, Luqman Mahmud, Nasir Ullah Khan Babar, Faqir Mohammad, Mohammad Hassan Durrani, Abdul Wadud Khan and Ahmad Jamal. They had intimately known each other and found a very enthusiastic support from, amongst their colleagues of the days at the college, who were amongst the IMA/PMA Course. Ahmad Jamal had earlier been selected to join the Pakistan Air Force. While under training for flying, he did not show the requisite aptitude for flying and was transferred to PMA and joined our course some time later.

The King Georges Royal Military College was represented by Saadat Ali Khan, Mohammad Iqbal Hussain and Mohammad Akram. They arrived with all the enthusiasm which was infused and grinded in them while at the Military College.

The Government College, Lahore (The Ravens) had their due share too. Mahmud, Muzaffar Malik, Safdar Butt, Hamid Ali Noon and Azhar Ali Syed came from this illustrious institution,

Saeed Malik recalls the heightened zeal and spirit that resulted in the carving of a new country, Pakistan, on the map of the world. While he was fully participating in the activities leading up to the fulfillment of this dream, he had applied for the 4th IMA Course. He appeared for the ISSB at Bareilly and was selected. After the creation of Pakistan, he received a letter from General Headquarters, Rawalpindi to report to PMA. So he arrived at the Rawalpindi Railway Station to join his other colleagues for the onward journey to Kakul.

He was all dressed up in a suave new combination with herring-bone cloth Chester, a bow tie and fancy looking ankle high Jodhpur suede shoes. He was soon to regret turning up so immaculately dressed. On reaching PMA he was the target. Through making him crawl, his dress was all covered in mud and dust. The Jodhpur shoes also lost the shape and the shine.



Abdullah Khan Malik, Muhammad Saleh and Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar came to join their batch mates at the Rawalpindi Railway Station, flying the flag of Gordon College, Rawalpindi. They did it proud. They along with Mahmud-ur-Rahman Qazi, who also had studied at the Gordon College, were in their home environment when they reported at the Railway Station for the journey of 1st PMA Long Course to the newly raised Pakistan Military Academy at Kakul.

Baluchistan, had their stalwarts in the names of Mohammad Hussain Shikoh and Agha Aman Ullah Shah, who were the true fore runners of the culture and traditions of that area. They symbolized the spirit of

some of the different tribes. Agha Aman Ullah Shah had the distinction to become the Vice-Chancellor of Quetta University, Baluchistan after his retirement from the Army.

Zafar and Dildar Rana were both the worthy students at Doon School, Dehra Dun, and a cradle of learning of distinction in pre-partition India.

Baltistan was not to be left behind. Hamid Hussain, who hailed from that area, but had been studying at Simla, on his arrival at Rawalpindi after the partition, was very keen to join the Army. He was over age for the entrance to PMA. He could not apply for admission as he needed a waiver for this ineligibility. He decided to force his way to General Head Quarters, Rawalpindi and stood in front of the office of the Adjutant General, Brigadier Raza. On his inquiring of the reason for his standing there, he made a very forceful plea for the waiver of his age restrictions. He implored that he belonged to Gilgit and Shigar area, and that this area must be given due representation. His plea was accepted and he was allowed to apply. He was selected at the ISSB and arrived at the PMA with all his other colleagues. He being senior in age, for him to act as a bully came natural.

Mahmud kreashie belonged to Srinagar. He had been already selected for the Air Force and was waiting for the call when the fighting broke out in Kashmir. He came over to Pakistan, when the Indian Army occupied Kashmir. To come to Pakistan, he went over to Delhi and approached Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi for help. Mr Liaquat Ali Khan was on a visit to Delhi, and was returning to Pakistan in his special aircraft. The Pakistan High Commissioner arranged to send him to Pakistan on the plane by which the Prime Minister was flying back. It was a good fortune for him. On reaching Rawalpindi, he joined Azad Kashmir Government, where he was assigned the task of organizing a batch of Kashmiri speaking volunteers at the DAV College building. He was working with Mr. Abdul Rahman Mitha and Mt Reddy; the proprietor and editor of "Kashmir Times" being issued from Srinagar. They had been exiled from there for their pro "Self-determination Role" after the occupation by the Indian Troops. In the designing of the flag for Azad Kashmir, Mahmud also had a hand and a say. He was also associated with the "International Brigade", which consisted of all volunteers, who were fighting for the cause of liberation for the Kashmiris. They had an American National also, who was an active participant of this struggle. He later left for States. Mahmud Kreashie, too was so imbued and excited with the spirit of rejoining the fighting in Occupied Kashmir, that he requested his Company Commander (Major Tikka Khan) to transfer him to OTS whenever it so starts, so that he can join the volunteers fighting there. This request was denied and thus he continued with his training at PMA.

We have reproduced the accounts of only some of us, of the journey and the experience that we had on the road to joining PMA. Likewise, we all had our individual background and experience of the child hood and the process of our selection, but since the record is not available in respect of all, we have chosen the brief description of those who remember and have provided the requisite information. We would like to request all families of our deceased colleagues to provide all the information they may have of their dear one's.

We are proud to claim ourselves as the first generation of nationalist professional officers with no nostalgia of the British or the Indian Army. Yes, in the building up of PMA and the Pakistan Army, we did recognize the genuine help and guidance that was provided by the officers and the men who belonged to these Armies. There were the good traditions of both that we inherited, and we must acknowledge our indebtedness to them. We represented a generation who had participated in the creation of Pakistan. We were imbued with the spirit of it. It was our foremost dream to build on that. We had come directly from colleges from all over India. Some of us had been studying in Military colleges like Royal Indian Military College and King Georges Military College. Though there was a different mindset of all these institutions, but our eyes were focused

with unencumbered fresh ideas of how to build a National Army. The basic cause and concern being, that we must give our best, even our lives for the defense and the security of our country. For us it was a singular honor. We had no other affiliations, links and remembrances of the past Colonial days.

...We Arrive

It was on 18 January, 1948, that we arrived at the PMA, Kakul, for the start of our fresh life and a new beginning for this wonderful institution. Earlier, most of us had gone through the Inter Services Selection Board, located at Westridge, Rawalpindi, and had been selected to join the 1st PMA Long Course. Having gathered at the Rawalpindi Railway Station, we took a train journey to Havelian. On alighting from the train, we were loaded in the Army 3 Ton vehicles. It was our first bumpy ride in these most uncomfortable vehicles, with many more to come in our later military life. On arrival at the PMA, we were received by the newly raised staff and 66 Gentlemen Cadets, who had earlier arrived from the Indian Military Academy, where they had under gone 8 months of training. This batch was since known as the IMA/PMA Course. The partition of the sub-continent also involved the division of Armed Forces. Accordingly, the Muslim officers and soldiers who had opted for Pakistan moved to their new homeland. There was also a sizeable component of the Muslim Instructional staff and cadets at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun who were also transferred to Pakistan. The Pakistan Military Academy opened on January 26, 1948, with 209 candidates.

| Course | Numbers |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Ex-IMA (IMA/PMA) -Course | 66 |
| 1 st PMA Short Course | 63 |
| 1 st PMA Long Course | 80 |
| Total | 209 |

...1st Pakistan Battalion

In the beginning, the PMA was rather a small institution consisting of one cadet battalion, having only two companies, Khalid and Tariq, founded on January 28, 1948. Nevertheless, it had the rare distinction of being designated as the 1st Pakistan Battalion. It was Colonel Ingall, who decided to give this cadet battalion a name and personality. In March, 1948, he asked the Commander-in- Chief to propose to Mr. Jinnah that the battalion be named, "The Quaid-I Azam's Own" and be designated the 1st Battalion in Pakistan Army, senior to all. It was approved. The Battalion adopted Quaid's motto, "Unity, Faith and Discipline." After the demise of Quaid, the toast on guest nights or other formal dinners was, "In the memory of the late Quaid-I-Azam."

...Off to a Dusty Start

At the PMA the forlorn barracks constructed of rag tag wooden material were not very inspiring. It was a camp for the Italian prisoners of war and had been hastily turned into a living area and also the training facility of this most important military institution in the country. It did not dampen our spirits and minds. It is not the lack of grandeur of the buildings, its impressive parade grounds and other facilities at this newly chosen home for PMA that mattered. It was the will, determination, zeal, grit and the ambitious vision of the inhabitants of this modest place that was of paramount importance. In this we all were not found lacking. From the dusty

parade ground, makeshift classrooms, stony play grounds and modest living accommodation, we made the proud beginning. With our own hands we cleared the stones from the play grounds, removed the ugliness of the area and started giving the place the look and the glamour that it deserved. We could only make a humble beginning. And we did it with sweat and toil.



The hutment of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps Training School at Kakul in 1940s which formed the nucleus of the Pakistan Military Academy



A view of the would-be PMA Road in 1940

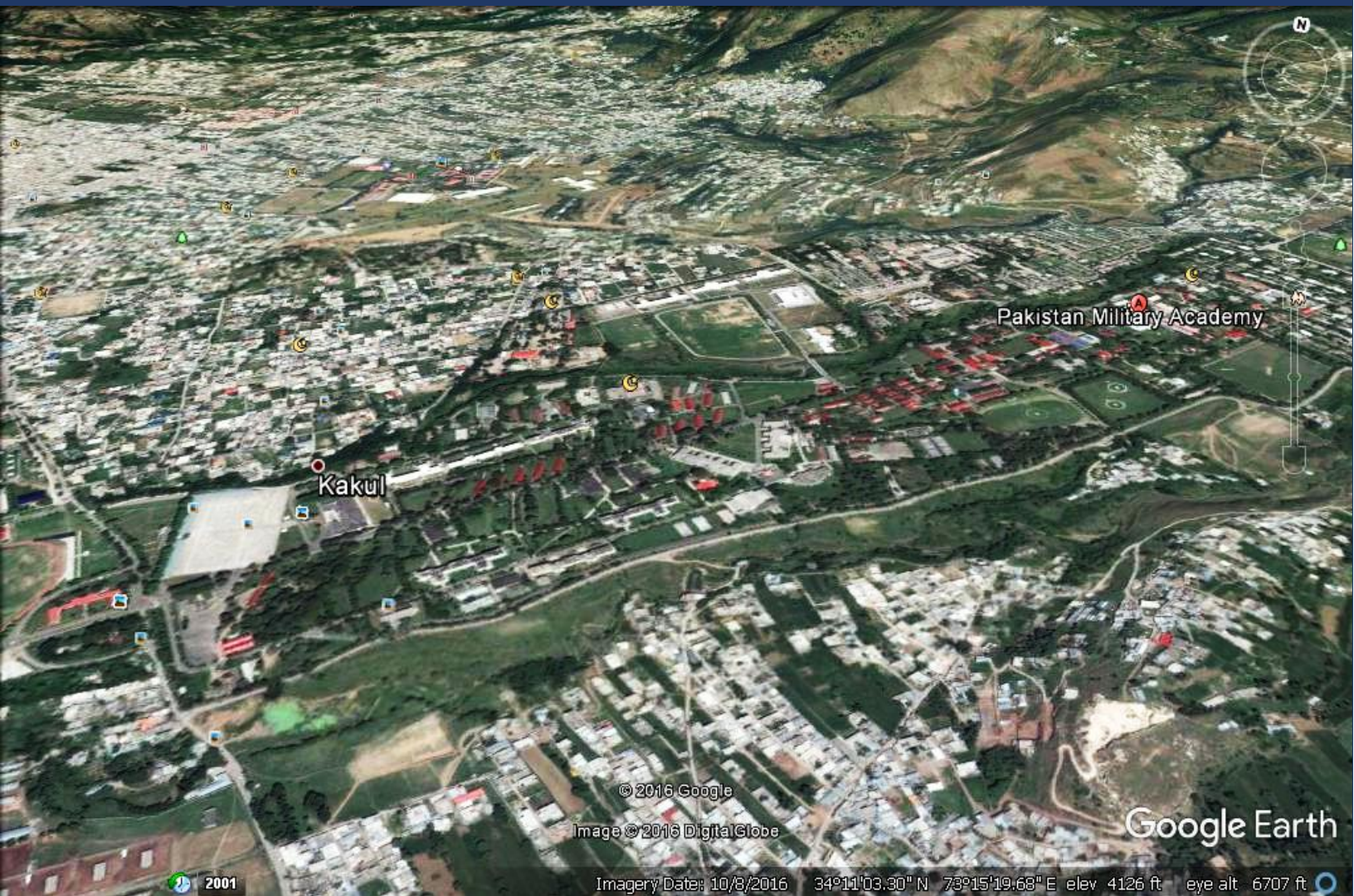
The View of the Road Now



A View of the Parade Under; the Command of the Adjutant Mounted on White Stallion



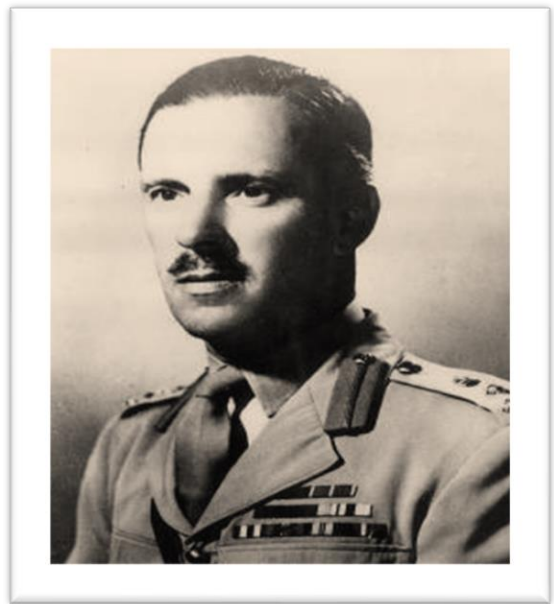
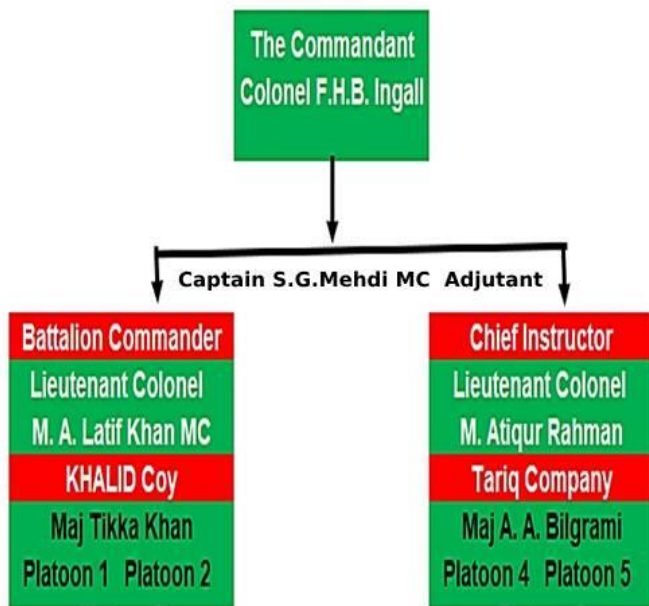
An Aerial View of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul



The beginning of the training at PMA, started on January 26, 1948. However, the official establishment came two days later on January 28, 1948. Colonel Ingall, the Commandant delivered a short speech to welcome the cadets: -

"We are a new institution in a new Army. In Pakistan we have the finest military material and we will build our own traditions which will be second to none. Your country has done you the greatest honor in accepting you as potential officers. You must strain every nerve to prove worthy of that honor. Our aim is to make the Pakistan Military Academy the first, most modern and up-to-date establishment in the world."

The first term started on time. The 1st Pakistan Battalion had two companies, namely Khalid and Tariq, and each company had two platoons each. The Platoons 1 and 2 were in Khalid Company and Platoons 4 and 5 were in Tariq Company. The full complement of the Staff at PMA on its inception was:-

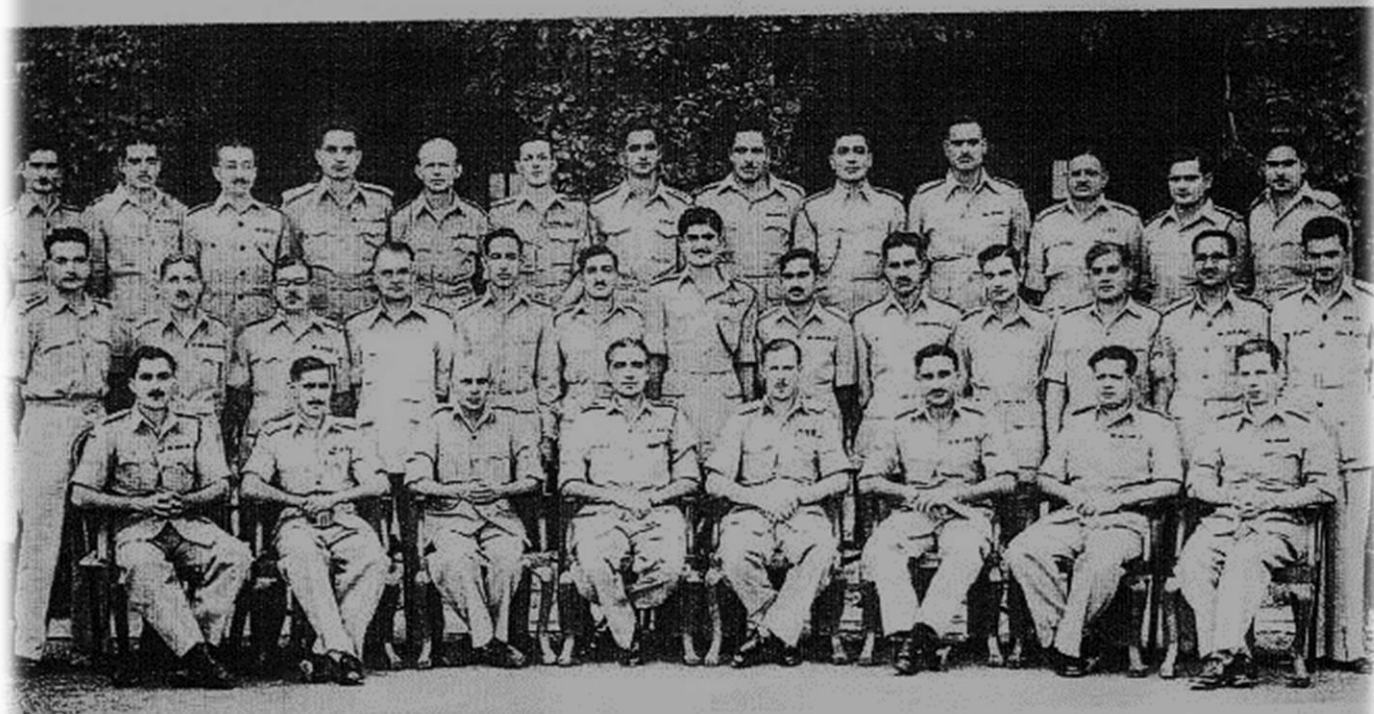


Colonel (Later Brigadier) F.H.B Ingall



R.S.M Duffield being decorated by PM Liaquat Ali Khan

The Faculty in April 1948



Sitting (L to R)

Majors S. G. Mehdi, MC, Tikka Khan, M. M. Ahmed, Lieutenant Colonel Latif Khan, MC, Colonel F. H. B. Ingall, DSO
Lieutenant Colonel M. A. Rahman, MC, Majors S. A. A. Bilgrami, D. A. Morrison.

Standing 1st Row (L to R)

Captains Rafi, Faqir Ali, S. B. Malik, M. F. Rahman, Murtaza Hussain, Ghulam Dastgir, M. A. Qureshi, M. I. Khan,
M. A. Majid, Sajjad Hussain, A. A. Mukhtar, S. A. Bokhari, S. M. Elahi

Standing 2nd Row (L to R)

Captains S. M. Moosvi, M. M. A. Beg, M. A. Zahid, A. W. Niazi, R. S. Petrie, H. F. G. Eggers, Bashir Ahmad,
Abdul Rashid, P. B. Gilani, M. S. B. Mirza, Lieutenant Ghulam Ghaus, Captains S. M. Salim, Nazir Ahmad



Sitting on Ground: G. Cs. Jahandad, M. F. Rahim, Muzaffar Khan, Luqman Mahmood, J. Z. Bangash, G. S. Butt, R. V. Gibbs, D. Rana, M. Bashir Khan, M. Zafar Khan
Sitting on Chairs: S. U. Durrani, R. S. M., Capt. M. I. Khan, W. Qadir, Coy. S. U. O., Maj. A. Hamid Khan, Rahim-ud-din Khan, P. U. O. Maj. Tikka Khan,
S. R. M. Abbasi, Bn. S. U. O., Capt. S. M. Mirza, R. A. Rashid, Coy. J. U. O., M. Jan, C. S. M.

GC Hamid Hussain Shigri Captain of Football Team

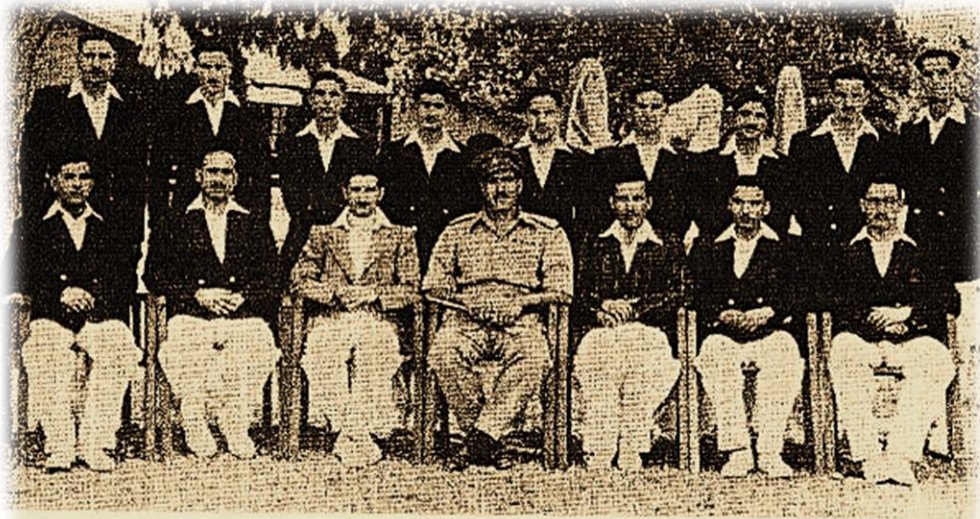


P. M. A. FOOTBALL XI 1949

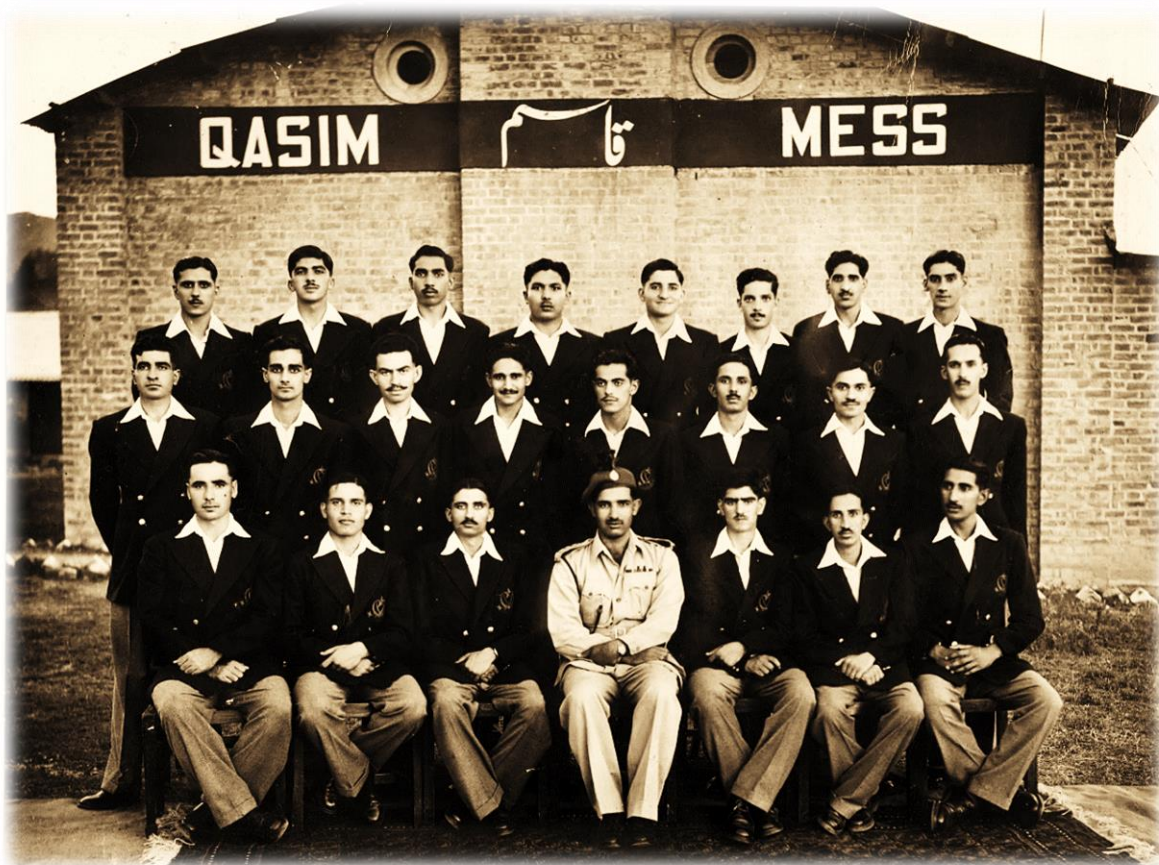


Standing :—Suleman Asif, Abdul Aziz, C. R. Datta, Sher Mohd, Hyder-ul-Hasan, Aurangzeb, Mansaladar Khan, K. M. Lodhi

Sitting on Chairs :—M. H. Mularak, (*Secretary*). Capt. M. A. Majid, (*Officer-Incharge*). U.O.H.H. Shigri, (*Captain*). Captain Ghulam Dastgir, P.T.O. Saif-ullah Khan. Abdullah Shah, (*on ground*).



The Cricket Eleven (1949). Standing 6th from the left is Gentleman Cadet Shuja-ud-Din Butt who later played in Pakistan's test side



The Cadets of the Qasim Company

...Remembering our Instructors

We must place on record the excellent jump start that this team of dedicated, highly motivated and inspiring instructors gave to this new but key institution being raised to build the emerging Pakistan Army. They may have lacked in the years of their experience in service, but their spirit at work more than made up this relative handicap. They all stood out tall.

The Beginning...

The nucleus of cadet appointments was formed from those who had come from the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. The war weary instructors had reached the Pakistan Military Academy in uniforms of different types and colors, were put to work immediately, without any clue as to their professional capability and instructional background. But there was no time for such niceties, and the work could not wait. It is to the full credit of these officers that despite the lack of experience they handled their duties manfully, with full poise and dignity. The Pakistan Military Academy was hardly off to its dusty start when the inspection visit of the Adjutant General (AG) came. Everyone lined up very enthusiastically to reap the reward and for recognition of the collective initial efforts to get the institution started. But the moments of initial glee turned bitter when the Adjutant General Choose to reprimand every one for the shabby dress and deportment. It was unkind but true, for most of the junior offices had dashed out straight from their offices, where they were moving and setting all the dusty furniture for this unexpected visit. It was a reminder to take the rough with the smooth if you wore the uniform. The Adjutant General was quite bemused to see the Chappati Cap of the cadets. There was nothing better available. However, immediately after the Adjutants Generals visit, the Academy received in succession, a number of officers from General Headquarters, who arrived to advice and help. In the wake of these visits came the much needed stores, vehicles and a couple of bulldozers. It was then that the dust began to settle and the things started shaping up.

...

CHAPTER 2

THE CREST AND MOTTO

It was Colonel Ingall who proposed a design of the crest to Army Headquarters. It carried two Arabian swords rested on the base of a crescent and held aloft in their taper tips was a five pointed star. It had a strong Islamic symbolism-the sword, the crescent and the star. However, one thing was missing, i.e., the Motto. Therefore, a committee comprising soldiers and scholars was formed to select the motto. Finally, "Help from Allah, and victory is near at hand" (Surah LXI, verse 13) was adopted as the motto of the Academy. The 1st Pakistan Battalion was designated as "The Quaid-I-Azam's Own". The next step was to have the colors *designed, and presented. A committee met under the Adjutant General to design the flag.*



The Quaid-I-Azam's Banner

The Commandant also participated in those deliberations. One of the flags incorporated Union Jack (Pakistan being a dominion at that time) as the other was the Regimental Flag of the Battalion.

The designs of both the flags were sent to the Royal College of Needlework for preparation and to be ready for the presentation by the Quaid-I-Azam. But the Quaid unfortunately could not visit the PMA and the

presentation of the Banner had to be postponed indefinitely. In fact, it never materialized. The Quaid died before he got the opportunity to visit the Academy; a much cherished idea. The flag of the 1st Pakistan Battalion (Quaid-I-Azam's Own) was an impressive emblem. Made of scarlet silk, it had a medallion in Pakistan Green on which was embroidered in gold thread the PMA Crest. The significance of the Banner was further enhanced as it incorporated the principles of "Unity, Faith and Discipline", enunciated by the Father of the Nation. In this manner a direct rapport was established between The Quaid-I-Azam's Banner and the 1st Pakistan Battalion which occupies a unique place in the Pakistan Army. The Banner is a source of perennial pride and inspiration for the PMA Cadets.

THE EARLY DAYS (1947 – 1949)

My dear Ingall ... I must congratulate you on what you have done, and are doing, for Pakistan. Unless I had seen it myself, I would not have believed it possible that the Pakistan Military Academy should have become what it is, in so short a time. It is almost a military miracle.

-- Extract from the Letter

From Field Marshal Achinleck

Quaid and the Armed Forces

In a message to the British officers, who had volunteered to serve in Pakistan, Quaid-I-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah expressed the resolve of his government:

Pakistan is a new country in which there is much work to be done. Our Armed Forces have to be reorganized and build up to the highest standards of efficiency. Our Own Pakistan Officers are at present inadequate in number, in technical training and in experience to shoulder the whole burden at once. But my government's policy is complete nationalization of the officers, cadre of the three services at such speed as is compatible with efficiency.

Spurred by Quaid's vision and the will, the Officers Corps set about the task of reorganization and even recreation of various organizations and institutions to lay futuristic foundations of the Pakistan Army.

Ingall's Arrival in Pakistan

Although Ingall had accepted the invitation to setup the Pakistan Military Academy and signed an agreement to serve Pakistan for three years, until August 1950, he was dissuaded by some well-wishers who wanted him to pursue his promising career in the British Army. But he stood by his decisions because he could not simply resist the temptation – to create a military academy from scratch and command it'. Eventually' he left Delhi on August 14 and drove up to Rawalpindi in his drop-head Vauxhall. This in itself was a hazardous undertaking. The journey was eventful but he made it safely to his new destination --- Headquarters of the Pakistan Army at Rawalpindi. As soon as he managed a lodging at Flashman's Hotel, he reported to the new General Headquarters. He was attached with the General Staff Branch, on an appointment similar to the one he had held in Delhi, to enable him to draw his pay and allowances. Shortly, he was formally designated Commandant of the Embryo 'Pakistan Military Academy'.

CHAPTER 3

THE SPIRIT OF THE COURSE AND CPO CLUB

The feelings that came natural to 1st PMA Course was to build up a distinct spirit-de-Corps; this we rather developed unconsciously and unwittingly. We imbibed this spirit and displayed this right from our days in PMA and later throughout our career and carried it even beyond into our life after retirement. This was soon to be tested. Many examples could be quoted, but we describe rather the one which came early in our stay at PMA. Three Gentlemen Cadets of our course, GC Mahmud Kreshie, GC Mir Aziz Alam and GC Vahidy, were absent without leave from PMA over one-week end. We knew about it and decided to keep quiet and cover it up. Another GC Nazir, from IMA/PMA course, had also gone with them. Kreshie and Nazir were old friends and in fact Kreshie had joined PMA, rather than the PAF Academy, for which he was selected, only because of him. While they were enjoying themselves in a restaurant at Rawalpindi, they were spotted by one of the instructors, Major Mir Wali, from Hunza. He was our methods instructor. He met them and considering that it was an innocent mistake, he told them that he would have liked to ignore it, but his duty demands that he should report their absence. But the colleagues of GC Nazir had already promptly reported the matter to their instructors. They were all charged for the offence. GC Mahmud Kreshie, tried to act brave and took all responsibility for it. He said it was all his initiative. But GC Nazir Ahmad was held guilty as he was the senior most. While his case was still under review at GHQ, there was a break in the Academy. GC Nazir proceeded on leave and was murdered during his vacation period. We rather felt sorry for him! But the history of PMA was written and the Army's grim rule that the senior has to take the blame came grumblingly known to us. It sounded so unjust and unfair to us that his course had let him down.

The Formation of Couldn't Pull On Club (CPO Club) ...

Looking back at the new life that we had started at the PMA, there are many reminisces. It may not be possible to record all the details, but we may pick on a few to highlight only some of the significant experiences and events. Foremost in our minds, were obviously the pride and the honor of being the pioneers of the edifice being laid and the foundations of this great institution being built. We were truly writing history. We had to act as the role model. We tried our best to live up to these ideals and aspirations. Our new life at the PMA was a big transition for most of us, particularly those who had come from civilian schools and colleges. The regimentation of the military life, the gusto of the cadets showing off their keenness, enthusiasm and sharp focus on our acts and omissions, both just to show it off, while we were under the watchful eyes of our instructors were being displayed brazenly to improve their grades. Those of us who came direct from civilian educational institutes, were all too unfamiliar with this and it looked very unnatural to them. But to those who came from Military Colleges or had military background, this came natural. They adapted to this kind of performance most naturally. They were off to a hectic activity, while the rest had to break in slowly or maybe they did not even get adjusted to it at all. It was in this background that a club, called the Couldn't Pull On Club, (CPO Club) was formed. The membership was rather restricted to only seven hard core members. They were namely, GC A. A. Jilani, GC Hamid Ali Noon, GC Izzat Hayat Khan, GC Prince Saif-ur-Rahman, GC Rab Nawaz Khan, GC Asad Khan and GC Mian Muhammad Mahmud. Another three, namely GC N. K. Babar, GC Sardar Ahmad and GC C. M. Anwar, joined in incidentally and also appear in the picture. But they were not the members of this club.



The Members of the CPO Club

Key members of this club came from No 5 Platoon of Tariq Company. GC Abdullah Al Saeed of IMA/PMA course was an exception. This was all formed at the initiative of GC A. A. Jillani, who had come direct from the United Kingdom, where he was serving in The Royal Air Force. His most famous and regular act was at the Parade Ground. He would trigger laughter by some act of his and then he himself and the other members would stand with serious looks on their faces. The many others around them were caught laughing and were hauled up by RSM Duffield and put on charge by him. They used to be promptly punished. They all resented it and would complain to the CPO Club, but never reported this to the instructors. The club members obviously enjoyed this deed and many others, which were all planned by GC Jilani. His father, Colonel Jilani was a serving officer in the Medical Corps and was a very strict father. Whenever, he would come for the visit to PMA to meet his son, GC Jilani would hide himself in some remote area and would instruct the members not to disclose it. One of the favorite spots was the Bhangi Colony of the PMA. His father would remain undaunted and most of the time would finally locate him. When Colonel Jilani would leave PMA, GC Jilani would sit with the club members and explain in detail the meeting he had with his father and the scolding he received from him.



GC-245 Izaat Hayat Khan S/O (Late) Sir Sikander Hayat Khan

He was born on 16.8.1929.

Resident of Wah, R.S.D. Attock.

Dismissed from PMA on 15th September, 1929.

Another connected incident of this club took place while this Platoon (No 5 Pl) was being marched by the newly appointed Senior Gentleman Cadet, Izzat Hayat Khan. He was a member of the club and while he was in control of this column, he noticed one of the instructors, Captain Beg following behind him. He instinctively braced himself according to his Royal Indian Military College (RIMC) training and instincts, and shouted, "Come on Rab Nawaz and Mahmud, March-up properly." They both were bewildered as they too belonged to this club and did not expect an outburst as such coming from their fellow member. Promptly, they responded with a vociferous shout of "Shut Up". Captain Beg ordered GC Izzat, to put the two Cadets on charge. GC Izzat carried out the orders and they both got 14 Days Restrictions as the punishment from the Company Commander Major A. A. Bilgrammi. The Company Commander told GC Mahmud, that he was letting him go away with a very light punishment this time, as he knew his family well, but next time if he ever comes on charge before him, there will be no such leniency. GC Mahmud kept wondering in his mind! This was the maximum power that the Company Commander had.

In the evening the club Members went to GC Izzat's room and scolded him. When he saw this threatening posture, he promised to behave. This he did. In fact, due to some personal and family reasons he lost interest in PMA. His father, Sir Sikander Hayat Khan, had died some years ago and the recent death of his mother just a few months ago, made him hasten to make up his mind to quit PMA.

What finally sealed the issue was the message that he received from the girl he wanted to marry. It was conveyed to him very bluntly that she will not marry anyone in uniform. He then made a very abrupt and impulsive decision. Just one fine morning he refused to go for the parade and sat back in his room. He was tried for this offence and was drummed out of PMA. This was the first case of the Cadet being drummed out of PMA Kakul. All his friends had advised him not to seek his expulsion in this manner as this would bring a bad name to his family. He was advised to look for some other pretension of leaving PMA, but he was adamant. He thus became the torch bearer for the club. He completed further education in Chartered Accountancy from the United Kingdom and joined Glaxo Laboratories. After spending a few years with Glaxo Laboratories, having gained corporate exposure, he resigned as Regional Director and decided to pursue an entrepreneurial life.

In 1966, he became Founder and Chief Executive of F&I Industries, a sugar confectionary manufacturing and distributing company based in Islamabad. In 1980, Sardar Izzat was appointed as Pakistan's Ambassador to Tunisia. In 1982, during his Ambassadorship, he was further appointed as Pakistan's Special Envoy to the Palestine Liberation Organization and The Arab League. In October 2002, H. E. Sardar Izzat Hayat-Khan fought an eight-month battle against cancer in the US and UK, and finally passed away in the UK. He left behind his wife, a daughter, two sons, five grandsons and two granddaughters. Mahmud had the opportunity to meet with his wife, who is Admiral Fasih Bokhari's sister, in Singapore when he was there in connection with the treatment of his wife a few years ago. He also met her at the house of Admiral Fasih Bokhari, when she was on a visit to Pakistan.



GC Sirdar Izzat Hayat Khan, later Pakistan's Ambassador to Tunisia Presenting his Credentials



GC-253 Saif-ur-Rahman S/O H.H. Muzza Farul Mulk Mehtar

He was born on 20.9.1928. Resident of Chitral. Withdrawn on 29th September, 1948.

GC Prince Saif-ur -Rahman was the next to leave. He had been sent to PMA against his wish by his father, The Mehtar of Chitral. He was used to very comfortable life and the arduous and hard training at PMA; he could hardly endure physically and mentally. He would sit with his group of friends of the club in the evening and grumble. He would complain that the fathers of others die but his father does not seem to die. The group would advise him not to flout the wish of his father and brace up. He had a big limousine at

his disposal and his friends would go with him on weekends to Abbottabad and Rawalpindi. One day he got the news that his father had died. In a most unusual reaction, he appeared to be the happiest person on earth. He immediately called for his car. He told his group not to inform any one till he leaves the premises of PMA. He packed his belongings and quietly left. The instructors were informed only the next day about the absence of GC Saif-ur-Rahman. He maintained his links with his group and all his friends. He would meet them at every opportunity and gave an open invitation to them to come and visit him at Chitral. Only Captain Mahmud availed this as he joined Air O.P. after his commission and flew over, and spent a week end with him.

He died in a tragic aircraft accident when he was flying back to Chitral in a PAF aircraft. It hit the top of Lowari Pass. Coincidentally, his granddaughter got married to Hamid Ali Noon's grandson son, Amir Noon's son, a couple of years back and is now part of the family of the old Colleague of her grandfather.



GC-221 Raja Rab Nawaz S/O Raja Umardras Khan Resident of Amritsar, He was born on 9.11.1928.

He went to Aligarh University for his education. The next to leave was GC Raja Rab Nawaz. He left PMA on 29.3.1949 malingering of serious knee problems and was boarded out on Medical Grounds. He was the third member of CPO Club who took the decision that he could not continue any more in the PMA. He decided to feign that his knees had been damaged due to the hard training at PMA. He complained that due to this he could not take the physical stress anymore. He was medically boarded out. This was a clean and clever accomplishment on his part. He managed to convince the doctors of the seriousness of his injury. But he did fool them. It was obvious that he

pretended and was feigning. And he did that very skillfully.

All the members of the CPO Club on leaving PMA were given a very befitting farewell. They remained in contact with each other even after their departure from PMA. The bonds were strong and they continued throughout their lives. After leaving PMA, Rab Nawaz went to Quetta and became a MES contractor there. When the 1st PMA Course arrived at Quetta, after their graduation from PMA, for training at the Infantry School, he looked after his friends well. He had given them an open invitation to come to his house, whenever, they wanted to, and they fully availed this offer.

He had some setback in his business and he decided to move to England. Whatever, money he could raise; he took it with him. Soon after reaching London, he spent it all and become penniless. He learnt his lessons hard. No friend in London would own him and he spent many a night in the parks and on the streets of London. With difficulty, he managed to get a job at a warehouse. This changed his life. He worked hard and this provided stability in his life. He met a smart Scottish girl by the Name of Mary and married her. She became an excellent influence and companion for him; this changed his entire attitude to life. He was rewarded and became the Managing Director of the Warehouse. Luck also started to favor him and he made a quick and rapid progress in life. He made the Warehouse business the main line of his interest. He met with remarkable success and soon became a warehouse tycoon. He further diversified his business. He later decided to move to a big Farm House in Uplands Park, Godalming, Surrey. He later adopted the hobbies of Horse breeding, and especially racing horses. This attracted him to the races and he would religiously attend the Derby, with the usual bowler hat and the other associated dress for the occasion. Hamid Ali Noon, who had left the Army by now, also had his keen interest in horses, polo and races, and became his close associate. He bought a house near Oxford and would spend his summer there. They thus became very intimate friends. Mahmud too maintained his contact with him and kept meeting him regularly, whenever, he would visit London. He lost touch with his roots in Pakistan. He died on 28th April, 2003. He was survived by his wife Mary Khan, two sons and a daughter. Robert Khan is a language teacher at Oxford University and the other son Ian Khan inherited his business and is fond of Car racing. His daughter, Zena Khan is a Shiatsu Massage specialist. His wife Mary Khan died some six years ago at the age of 86.

Out of the basic six hard corps founding fathers of CPO Club, now only three namely, Jilani, Hamid and Mahmud were left in PMA. GC Abdullah al Saeed, who was from IMA/PMA course, took close interest in the CPO Club. Though he was senior to 1st PMA Course, but his room was next to Mahmud's room and he just co-opted himself in this group. He was from the Royal family of Muscat. He was not a very keen cadet, but he

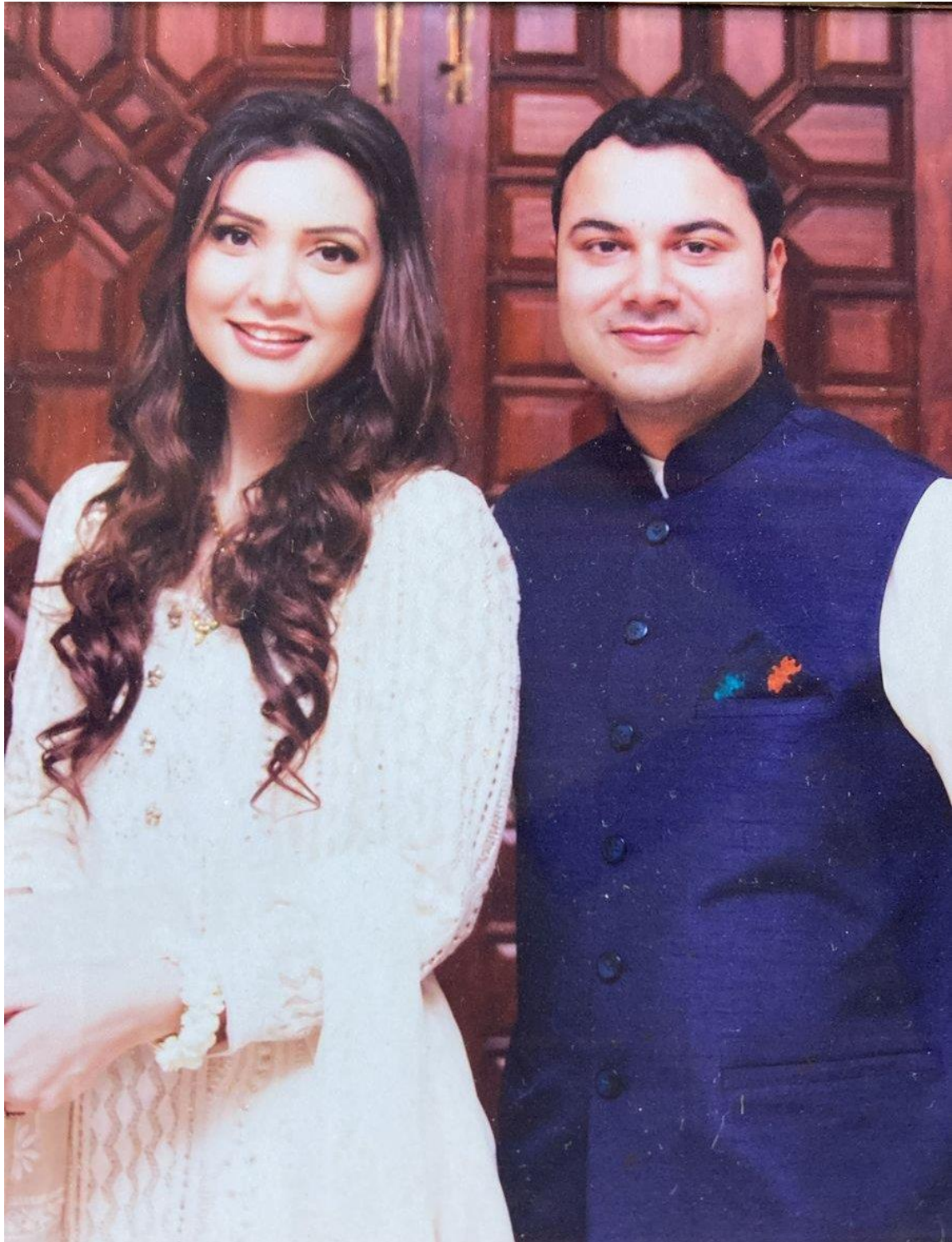
passed out with his course, IMA/PMA, and left for Muscat. He later became the Defense Minister and donated a sum of Rupees 5 Million for his course.

With the departure of GC Rab Nawaz, Hamid and Mahmud retained their closer links. In the second term GC Abdullah Malik, GC Aziz-ur-Rahman and GC Muzaffar Khan Malik became close to them and they formed their distinct group.

At the beginning of the third term, Hamid surprised everyone and did not turn up for duty. It was a unique case. A cadet was missing for one full term and yet he was accepted back in PMA. There can be no parallel example like this in any of the Military Academies all over the world. A little account as to how this unique and unparralled event ever happened in the history of PMA, is worth recording. While Hamid was absent from the Academy, the Commanadant Brig Ingall went for a shoot at he lands of Hamid Noon's father, Malik Sardar Khan Noon. Brig Ingall considered it appropriate to call Hamid for a one to one meeting with him. In this his sincere and frank advice to him was, that he should have drummed him out from PMA for this serious lapse. But he has refrained from that, because he did not want to tarnish the good name of his family. His sincere advice to him was, that he should come back to PMA, complete his training, gain his commission honourably, and if after that he still wants to resign, he could do it without casting any blur on his family. This had a marked effect on Hamid and he arrived back to PMA at the end of our third term break. Since he had missed the third term, so he was not put with 1st PMA Long Course, but had to join 2nd PMA Course for the rest of his training at PMA. He graduated with 2nd PMA, but his heart and close associations remained with 1st PMA. He had the distinction of representing the Pakistan Army at the Coronation Ceremony of the Queen. He was an excellent Polo player and played for the Pakistan team for a long time. He later served in The Presidents Body Guard and reached the rank of Major. In 1962 when Ayub Khan brought in the land reforms, his father lost a lot of land under those reforms. In 1962, he came to meet Major Mahmud, who was posted at Rawalpindi. He requested him to write his letter of resignation. He further suggested to him that the letter should be so pathetic and so worded as to make a very strong and compelling case for his resignation to be accepted. He was rather surprised that his resignation was approved without any delay. He got an honorable retirement with half the pension. He had to forego half his pension according to the rules. He gave some of the credit to Mahmud for writing a very compassionate, touching and emotional letter of resignation. He was a big farmer already, but soon he got into industries and was also picked up by Mr. Bhutto for an Ambassadorial Appointment. He thus earned the distinction to be the first of PMA Graduates to become an Ambassador. He continued his interest in Polo and also became a well-known race horse breeder. This he continued since. He would regularly join Rab Nawaz for the races at Derby and Escort. Rab Nawaz invariably booked a table for twelve at these races and Hamid was mostly present with him on those occasions. Even now he is an active member of Lahore Race Club. He has now since died about two years ago. He is survived by his wife Asmat Hayat Noon, son Amir Noon and daughter Farzana Qureshi. Amir is in touch with Mahmud. He lives abroad mostly , but whenever he is in Pakistan, they meet each other and share the memories of old days spent with Hamid. Amir has recently sent Mahmud a historic photograph of Hamid's father-in-Law, and his wife's grandfather, Sir Feroze Khan Noon. It is placed on record here. It is a hppy coincident that Amir Noon 's son got married to Mehtar of Chitral, Saif-ur-Rahman's, granddaughter a couple of years back. Hamid was alive at that time, and he was happy that his family has been joined by the granddaughter of his colleague from PMA days. We too would like to faciltate the families of both our old Colleagues, for this auspicious occasion, and wish the married couple our best wishes for their happy married life.

Mohammad Nasir Ali Noon, grand son of Hamid Ali Noon, and Son of Amir Noon, got married to Sahibzadi Afifa Zohar Batul, grand daughter of Mehtar of Chitral Saif-ur-Rahman on 15th March 2016. A photograph of

the married couple is placed below to be kept as a record of the happy wedlock of the grand children of these old colleagues of 1st PMA Long Course. From the fraternity of 1st PMA Long Course, we extend our best wishes to them.





Glimpses of Past



Glimpses of Past Sir Feroz Khan Noon, the future Prime Minister of Pakistan, is seen in this photograph taken in 1944, accompanied by the His Highness Maharaja Sir Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the Right Honourable L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India and Burma.



H.E. Hamid Ali Noon arriving at the Palace for presenting his Credentials



The Palace of the King of Spain, which is supposed to be the biggest in the World



H.E. Hamid Ali Noon presenting his credentials to King Carlos



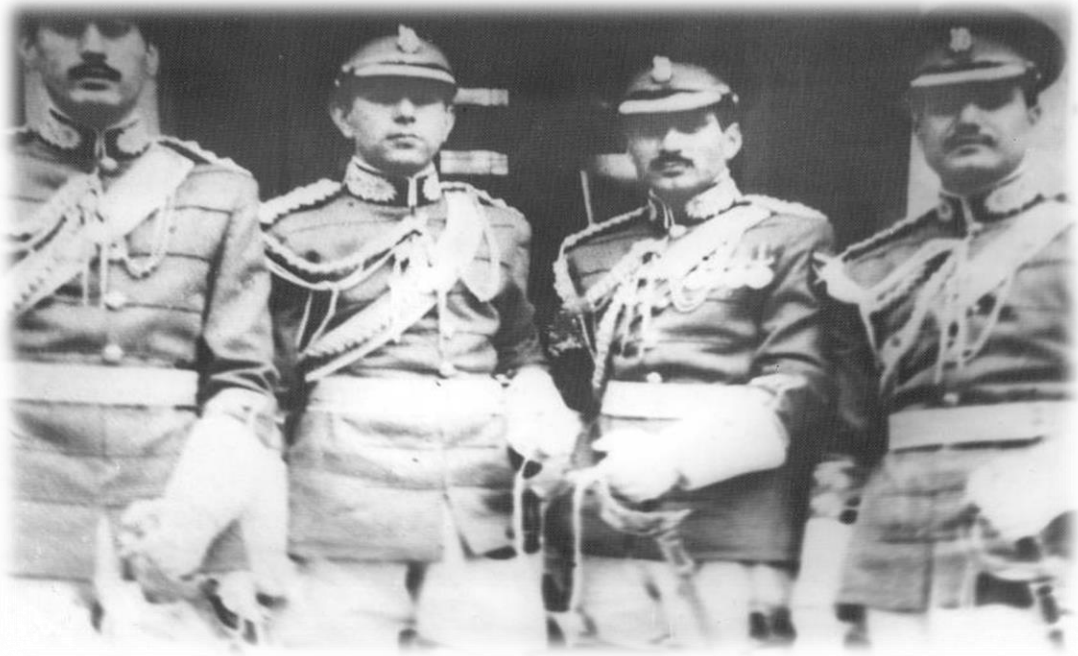
H.E. Hamid Ali Noon arriving to present his credentials to the King of Spain.



H.E Hamid Ali Noon arriving to present his credentials to the President of Poland.



H.E. Hamid Ali Noon presenting his credentials to the President of Poland.



Pakistani Contingent for the Coronation Ceremony of the Queen.



Hamid Ali Noon Presenting the Cup at the races.



***Maj Hamid Ali Noon While serving in
President's Body Guard***



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prize Distribution of a Polo Tournament.

Other members of the CPO Club who passed out from PMA with their course i.e. 1st PMA Long Course, were Jilani, Asad and Mahmud. GC Asad's family came from Afghanistan and were settled down in Rawalpindi. He retired from the Army as a Captain. He later migrated to America and it was reported that he died shortly after his arrival there from Pakistan. No details were available of the circumstances or the reasons of his death.

Captain Jilani had a very interesting stint of his Military life. There are many interesting, hilarious and comical stories of his life. He was full of spontaneous wit, a unique sense of good practical jokes and was over all very popular in the Army. His most famous anecdote goes back to his posting in East Pakistan. He had cultivated very close and friendly relationship with local people during his tenure at Khulna. He was G-III at the Brigade Headquarters. One day a message was received from GHQ, about the posting of a new Brigade Commander. He was Brig Akhtar Hussain Malik, who was our Battalion Commander at PMA and was well known to Captain Jilani. The signal also asked for the reception and transport arrangements on the arrival of the new Brigade Commander. When Brig Akhtar Hussain Malik arrived at Khulna Railway station, he was very enthusiastically received by Captain Jilani. He smartly saluted him and led him to a long line of local notables that he had gathered. They profusely garlanded the new Brigade Commander. Brig Akhtar Malik felt a little embarrassed, but he had no option. He had to go through the ceremonies. When this was over, he took the Brigade Commander outside the station. There was an elephant waiting. He requested Brig Malik to get seated on that. This was now still more surprising and the Commander felt most uncomfortable. But with all the dignitaries watching him, he had no alternative but to take his seat on the elephant. There was the local band in attendance and a long line of cyclists acted as the escort. The convoy with all the fanfare slowly arrived at the Brigade Headquarters. Brig Malik felt very relieved when he got down from the elephant and reached the mess. Once Brig Malik was alone with Captain Jilani, he exasperatingly asked him, "What the hell was that". Captain Jilani in his cool demeanor replied, "Sir I was asked to arrange reception and transport. This is the best that I could do. If there were any shortcomings he should be forgiven as he had no other resources." Brig Akhtar Malik spontaneously burst out in a big laughter. Captain Jilani too felt very relieved and the occasion ended on a happy note.

Out of all the six original founding members, GC Mahmud had a regular career. It was eventful, quite satisfying and he served the Army with honor and dignity. He was always blunt, forthright and spoke his mind clearly with no inhibitions. He rubbed many a people on the wrong side. But he still had a relatively successful career. Ultimately, he also resigned from the Army in 1975.

Brig Babar, though not a fully-fledged member of the club, due to the sticker of RIMC on his name, but he still kept some associations with CPO Club. He became Major General and Mr. Bhutto retired him from the Army to take over as the Governor of N.W.F.P. He again set history by becoming the First Governor out of PMA Graduates.

Major General (Retd) N.K. Babar Sworn in as Governor N.W.F.P.



CHAPTER 4

LIFE AT PMA

Life at PMA

With the full functioning of life at PMA, the activities started to pick up momentum. It had its own strain and stress. The month of Ramadan arrived and the cadets were advised not to fast because of the rigorous training regime. In us it had just the opposite reaction. Even those of us, who were normally not fasting, started doing so. The training was hard, arduous, and exhausting, but we all proved equal to the task. We clearly showed our will and resolve. This happily was maintained throughout the rest of our Army career. We had developed our identity, had a clear mind of our own and would give our views fearlessly without reservations or ambiguity. Above all we stood for the glory and the bright future for this Country and the Army. We proved it at the peril of our lives and also at the stake of our careers. This was to become the hall mark of the course. It was shown and displayed by most of us throughout our career. Diverse in mind, but unity at heart, a spirit of its own which was unique, and was displayed throughout our Career. It started off from our life as the 1st PMA Course, we lived our careers in that spirit and now in the twilight years of our life, we still stand by with that commitment. It is with hope and prayers that we set the right standards, imbibed the true spirit and laid well defined paths. If so, may Allah accept our humble efforts and give the following generations the strength to stand steadfast on those values and principles.

There was a string of regular visitors to PMA. General Gracey, The Commander-in-Chief, was one of those. He arrived on March 9, 1948.

He summed up his impressions at the dinner, *"I was much impressed with what I saw. The institution has been established on solid foundations and a steady supply of officers for the Pakistan Army assured."*

This visit also formalized the likely most important event to come in the history of PMA. The momentous occasion was to be the formal inauguration of the Pakistan Military Academy by Quaid-I-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It was scheduled for April 15, 1948. There was a buzz of excitement all around. Our hearts were throbbing with joy at the very thought of receiving the Quaid in PMA. Due to the deteriorating health of the Quaid-I-Azam, this was postponed twice. Despite all our prayers and that of the entire Nation, Quaid passed away on September 11, 1948. It was the will of God Almighty. We directly felt that. While the Quaid was planning to own us as his own Battalion, the Almighty ordained it otherwise. The Quaid could not do it in his own lifetime. His sad death had rendered us orphans. A formal 40 Days mourning was announced by the Commandant and duly observed.

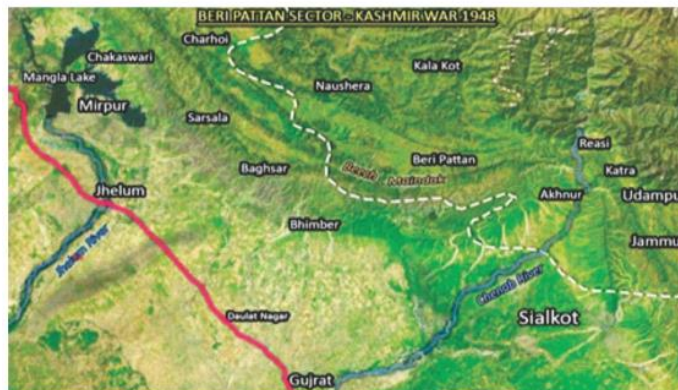
Another important visitor that we remember, was Major General Akbar Khan. He had played a major role in the war for the liberation of Jammu and Kashmir. He led the tribal Lashkars and the rag tag Army volunteers. GC N.K.Babar also had fully participated in these operations before his joining PMA. GC Mahmud Kreashi too was actively involved in the struggle and had joined the activities of the newly formed Azad Kashmir Government. He also was closely linked to the International Brigade, which had volunteers from different countries, and was part of this unofficial struggle against the Indian occupation of Kashmir by force and fully participated in these operations before he came to PMA. Our course thus made its contributions in actual operations even before we assembled at PMA. While addressing the Cadets, Major General Akbar Khan was exclaiming as to how our irregular forces had reached to within 2-3 Miles of the vicinity of Srinagar Airport,

but they wasted some time in mopping up the booty. This delay proved very vital as the Indian Army managed to air lift their troops at the Srinagar airport. The planning for this they had carried out much earlier than the start of the war. He frankly admitted that their biggest mistake was that they did not capture the airfield with the speed and urgency; which was the crying need of the hour. The Indian's consolidated their positions there and in fact started their summer offensive. It was a two pronged attack. The aim was to capture Muzaffarabad and to link up with their troops at Poonch. Maj Gen Akbar gave a very emotional and sentimental account of the Operations which had a personal description. He at length described the most daring and bold operation for the capture of Pandu feature, which was carried out directly under his Command. He also gave the details of how the Chunj feature was captured along the Southern route of their Summer Offensive. The Capture of Pandu and Chunj features were the daring attacks which had been launched to blunt the Indian offensive. With these, the Indians were denied all their hopes of capturing Muzaffarabad and link up with Poonch Garrison. With clear resentment he went on to describe as to how the then C-in-C of the Pakistan Army, General Messervy, had given clear instructions for no regular troops to move into the disputed area of Kashmir area. These instructions were flouted by some including himself, but it was no substitute for some regular troops. They did achieve some built up and achieved some resistance against the regular Indian Army, but it lacked the capability of any offensive against them.



Capture of Pandu and Chunj – Kashmir War 1948

The British officers serving in the Pakistan Army at that time were under strict instructions not to venture into the disputed area. General Akbar very forcefully, eloquently and in full clarity described the role played by Major General Tottenham; he was the GOC of 7 Infantry Division, which was located near Gujrat. General Akbar, very vividly and in detail gave an account of how General Tottenham defied and violated all these instructions. He made regular visits to these areas in civvies and without his official jeep. He carried out a detailed recce and prepared a brilliant plan for attack on Beri Pattan Positions of the Indian Army. It was implemented with the massive bombardment of these positions and our troops started their advance soon after the fire was lifted. The Indian Forces evacuated the entire area. The position had become so precarious that The Indian Prime Minister went rushing to the United Nations for a cease fire. In a very disgruntled tone and full of emotions, he summed it up, *"As the Pakistani Troops started their advance; our Prime Minister accepted the cease fire immediately. He did not wait for the operations to reach its logical conclusion and achieving its aims and objectives."* In a harsh tone and muffled anger, he went on, *"The advance of our troops was stopped in their tracks. The vacant positions were just beckoning our quick advance and capture of those positions. We missed an excellent opportunity to inflict a decisive military defeat on the Indian Army in this sector."* He summed it up sorrowfully and with pained feelings, *"Gentlemen the wars are not fought by the armed chaired politicians sitting in the comfort of their offices, but by the soldiers who directly fight the battles in the field looking right in the face of the enemy."* It was very clear that bitterness had infected in him very strongly. He became the Chief of the General Staff later, but was arrested by General Gracey, along with some others, in what came to be known as the Rawalpindi Conspiracy. They were tried and sentenced. Our Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Latif was also amongst them. This was the first occasion in the Army, where dedicated soldiers who were professionally brilliant, tried to stage a coup. There is a need to learn some lessons from that!



Beri Pattan Sector – Kashmir War 1948

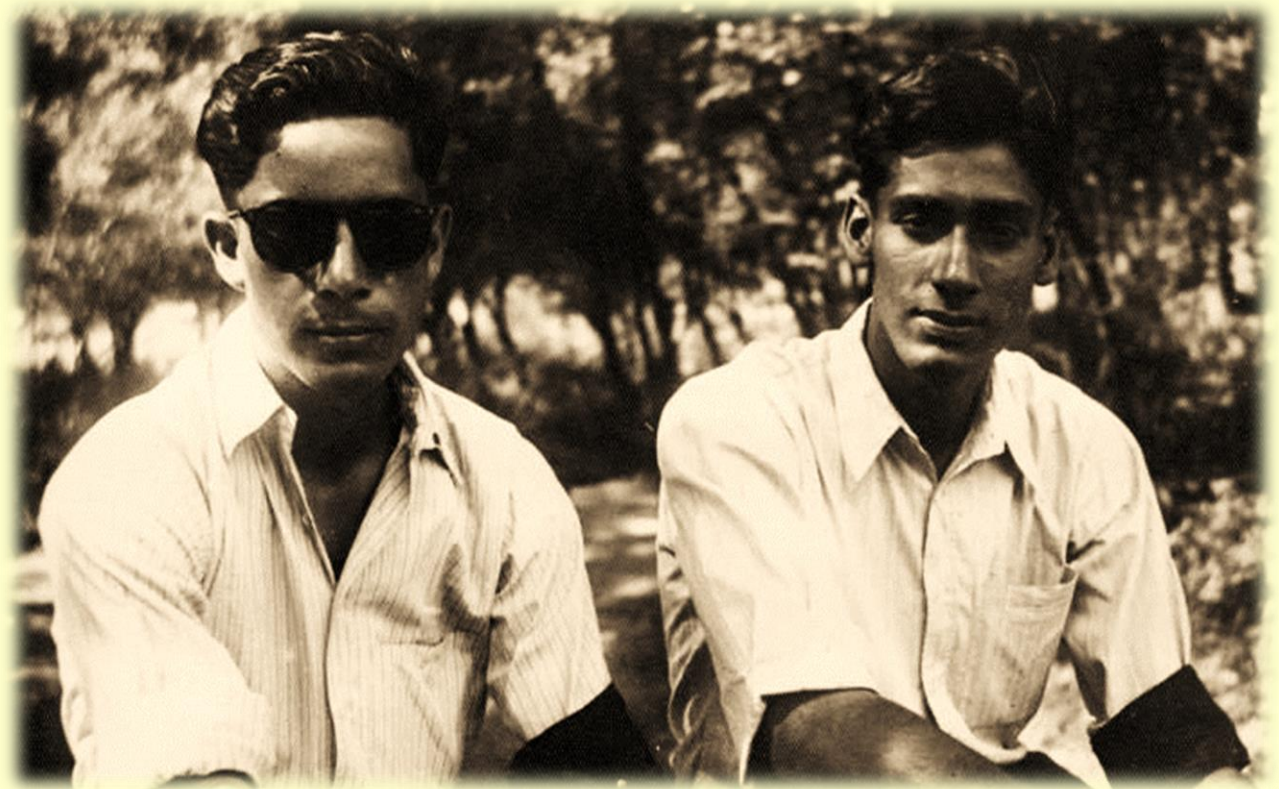


Rajouri Sector – Kashmir War 1948

On the death of Quaid-I-Azam On 11th September, 1948, 40 days mourning was observed at PMA.



GC Mahmud and GC Aziz-ur-Rahman sat wearing the Black Arm Bands



The life at PMA went on at a hectic pace. RSM Duffield and Sub Major Lehrasab were setting the tone and the standards, at the parade ground. In the Physical Training regime, it was our PT Instructors who were working us hard to go through the different exercises, obstacle course, the dreaded wooden horse and the other schedules. Our lasting memory still is the jumping over the wooden horse. Some of us did not have the ability to clear it easily. They would come charging with full speed and instead of jumping over it, would hit it with all the force and momentum. The most notable was Muzaffar Malik. They were demonstrating their aggressive spirit and enthusiasm. This was noted and well appreciated both by our PT Instructors and our Platoon and Company Commanders.



GC Muzaffar Khan Malik in his fatigue dress



GC Azhar Ali Syed clearing the Rope

In the first term our course went for Camp “Initiative” in the area of Havelian. This was our first experience of living the life in the real Army way. There were the bivouacs and all the other strapping and routines of living out door in the open. As the first term was about to come to close, we were all very excited. We were anxiously looking forward to get a break from our hectic life in PMA. Reaching our homes at the earliest and without losing much time was a matter of urgent need for us all. For this the local knowledge and contacts of GC M.R. Qazi proved very handy and helpful. He very efficiently arranged different buses for different destinations. This was duly appreciated by all his colleagues and this then became his assigned duty for all such breaks, visits and different trips that our course had to undertake. This was named NANDA Bus service and this became synonymous with the name of GC Qazi. This has not left its shadows even until now. He made all the transport arrangements for the visit to PMA on the occasion of our Golden Jubilee. Even now, for our Diamond Jubilee, it will be Qazi who will have to shoulder this onerous responsibility, even though he has become somewhat deaf. His enthusiasm prevails as ever.

The award of punishment for various offences was not too pleasant an ordeal; we learnt to live with this. The watchful eye of RSM Duffield would not spare any one. On the slightest lapse he would dole out

extra drills as this was in his personal domain. For other more serious omissions there was the formal charge sheet. The offenders were marched up before the Company Commander. It was dreaded! Only a few of us were fortunate to escape this experience. But most of us went through this and it normally had a bit of a sobering effect. Yet some had the misfortune to be most often suffering this distress on more regular basis. In that the name of GC Saeed Malik stands out most notably. The sight of him being on restrictions parade had become a norm. But then he has an explanation! He would say then and even now much more forcefully, that he was a victim of circumstances. First time he was called up for not writing to his family for some months after joining PMA. His brother had written direct to the Commandant asking about his wellbeing. He only got mild admonishment from his Company Senior Under Officer. However, the days passed by and he started to find his feet on the ground. As he was beginning to feel a little at home, he got his first punishment of three days' restrictions. He did not understand the meaning and the scope of it. But he soon found it out to his peril! Recollecting it now some decades later, he describes it, "It is like TB. Once it gets into your system you cannot get rid of it easily. It keeps multiplying and becomes a vicious circle. The most common charge against me was losing Government property. It was done by purpose by some. Invariably some item of my official kit issued to us, would be missing and on inspection I was found to be deficient of that. It became an endless game." It was during this period of undergoing restrictions that he got to know GC A.A. Jilani well and more intimately. He too used to be a fairly regular recipient of restrictions and struck a sympathetic chord for Saeed Malik. While comparing notes with each other's, Jilani would extol the lofty ideals and precepts of CPO Club. Though a suitable candidate and interested, but Saeed Malik never formally joined it. On his first visit home during the first term break, he gave his family the gist of what he was undergoing at PMA. He even told them that they should not be surprised to see him back home permanently. On his return from the break, his cycle of being on restrictions continued. The Company Commander, Major Hamid, decided to put him before the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Latif. In exasperation, Saeed Malik told him that he was perhaps temperamentally not suited for the Army career and he would much rather leave PMA. The sagacity and the wisdom of the Battalion Commander counseled encouragement for him and suggested that he should learn to take the low with the highs and that he should pull himself through the training at PMA to attain the goal for which he joined it; to become an officer and lead his men. GC Saeed Malik gathered himself, got his Commission in the Army and had a very fruitful, happy and endearing career; to relive and recount later with personal pride about whatever contribution he could make.

When we came back for the second term, we seemed a little more relaxed. We were more assured of ourselves and started to find our feet in the Academy and equally adjusting ourselves more naturally. A new company, Qasim, was raised and Major S.G. Mehdi took over as its first Company Commander. He was our adjutant in the first term and had carried the nickname of Mehdi the killer, from the days of his stay at IMA. He had an over bearing personality, was very aggressive in his manners and speech and carried the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian.

At the start of our regular academic classes, our instructors asked each of us to speak briefly for five minutes and describe as to how we all spent our first leave from PMA. There were different and interesting accounts given, but the most unique, hilarious and which had a mark of its own style was the one narrated by GC Muhammad Hussain Tiwana. He stood there erect with his moustache well-oiled and rolled, and started off in his own distinct brusque manner, "Gentlemen, when I reached my home town, I was accorded a very warm and enthusiastic welcome by my family and tribe." It appeared suddenly out of the blue, that Tiwana was giving himself the hall mark of a true hero retuning home. While we were still laboring to digest this, he went on to state, "After the reception was over, we had a family Jalsa. There were festivities and rejoicings. Big

meals were served with cooked Dregs of Pulao and Qorma and most generously offered to all the participants.” We now were beginning to sense that it was all a put up account of may be an imaginary event, and that Tiwana was giving it all the trappings to convince everyone that it was real and factual. The climax came when he very proudly and confidently announced, “After the Jalsa was over, we went big game hunting, shooting pigeons and partridges.” There was a spontaneous burst of loud laughter all around. Tiwana was suddenly perplexed and non plus. Whether it dawned on him or not, the joke was over; he abruptly ended his account and sat down. It was nevertheless a brave effort on his part to impress upon us all as how important a person he was in his own tribe.

CHAPTER 5

THE GRADUATION PARADE AND THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The most important event of the second term was the graduation ceremony of IMA/PMA Course which was due in November 1948. It was, therefore, decided that both the Inauguration Ceremony and the Graduation Parade be combined and held on November 25, 1948. This day became a land mark in the history of the Academy. Khawaja Nazimuddin, the Governor General of Pakistan was invited to grace the occasion.

The 25th of November 1948 was a day both for fulfillment and commitment to the military duty and national honor. The Passing Out Parade also included the Presentation of Quaid-i-Azam's Banner to the 1st Pakistan Battalion (Quaid-i-Azam's own- a titled conferred by the Quaid-i-Azam), the First Sword of Honor to the best all-rounder graduating cadet and the Norman Gold Medal to the graduating cadet who secured the first position in the Academic subjects.

The parade was held with full pageantry and colors. The guests and the spectators were all seated when at 10:45 hrs, the 1st Pakistan Battalion (Quaid-i-Azam's Own) marched into the parade ground by Companies-Khalid, Tariq and Qasim, in that order, under the Command of the Adjutant Captain Bashir Ahmad, riding on a majestic white horse. The Battalion formed up in line facing the Saluting Dais, and was taken over by the Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel M.A Latif Khan, MC. He then handed over the parade to the Commandant. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Douglas Gracey, KCIE, CBE, MC, was also present on the occasion. The Governor General Khwaja Nazimuddin arrived at 11:00 hours and was received behind the Dais by the Commandant, the Battalion Commander and the Adjutant.

He then proceeded to the Saluting Dais where he was received by the Battalion with General Salute: "Pakistan Zindabad." The Battalion was then inspected by the Governor General accompanied by Commander-in Chief and the Commandant. After the inspection of the parade, the Governor General returned to the saluting dais. The Parade then formed a hollow square; the Governor General once again descended from the dais to present the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner to the Battalion. This was followed by a brief silence as a token of respect to the memory of the departed leader, the Quaid-i-Azam, who had desired to present the Banner to the Battalion in person. The Governor General then presented the first Sword of Honor to Battalion Senior Under Officer Sadiq-ur-Rashid Mohammad Abbassi and the first Norman Gold Medal to Platoon Under Officer Farrakh Bakht Ali. The Governor General then returned to the saluting dais to address the parade. He congratulated the cadets on the excellent drill and turn out and reminded them of their past heritage and future responsibilities. After the address the parade re-formed into line and the Senior Division, comprising the passing out cadets, marched off the parade in slow march, while the rest of the Battalion presented arms; the spectators rose and the Governor General acknowledged the salute. Thereafter, the remaining parade, under the command of new Battalion Senior Under Officer, Raja Aziz Bhatti, marched off the parade ground. It followed an interlude of martial music played by the mass bands of units and Regimental Centers of the Punjab, Irregular Frontier Force (PIFFERS) and the Army Supply Corps; and a PT display by the Gentlemen Cadets. The officers and the cadet appointments present on this historic occasion were:-

Commandant***Colonel F.H.B.Ingall, DSO 6th (DCO) Lancers******Battalion Commander******Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Latif Khan, MC, Baluch******Adjutant******Captain Bashir Ahmad, Guides Cavalry, Frontier Force******Regimental Sergeant Major******V.C. Duffield, MH, Cold Stream Guards******Battalion Senior Under Officer******Sadiq-ur-Rashid Mohammad Abbassi******Battalion Junior under Officer******Fazle Haq******Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major******Murtaza Jan******Khalid Company******Senior under Officer Waheed Qadir******Junior under Officer Qazi Abdul Rashid******Platoon under Officer Rahim-ud-Din Khan******Platoon under Officer Ejaz Azim******Tariq Company******Senior under Officer Iqbal Shaffi******Junior under officer S. A. Khan******Platoon under Officer S.S. Aurakzai******Platoon under Officer F.B. Ali******Platoon under Officer Raza-ul-Haq***

Qasim Company

Senior under officer Tariq Mir

Junior under Officer S.U. Durrani

Platoon under Officer M.A. Rashid

Platoon Under Officer A.M. Javed

Platoon Under Officer K.A. Kayani

After the parade, the Governor General visited the cadet messes, and later had lunch in the Officers mess, in the company of the distinguished Pakistani and Foreign guests. At the mess he was introduced to the officers of the Academy, and along with the Commander-in-Chief, he had a group photograph taken with them. At 15:00 hrs., he departed in his car through the cheering lines of the Gentlemen Cadets. The inauguration ceremonies continued after the departure of the Chief Guest. The schedule for the day included a hockey match against the PAF College team followed by a hilarious Pagal Gymkhana staged by the Gentlemen Cadets. On the occasion of their first ceremonial parade, the Gentlemen Cadets gave an excellent account of themselves to the outside world, particularly in the way of very high standards of the military parade, impressive turn out and the proud military bearings. For this we must acknowledge the singular contribution made by our RSM Duffield. He showed his complete identity, dedication and commitment to his duties at PMA. We here would like to record and acknowledge that for the posterity to remember. The Governor General and the Commander-in-Chief sent their complimentary messages to the Commandant. The same are recorded as under: - *"I was glad to be able to open the Academy and witness you're most impressive parade. I would like to repeat my Congratulations to you all. Please convey my thanks and Appreciation to all concerned for the excellent arrangements during the function and our stay at Kakul."*

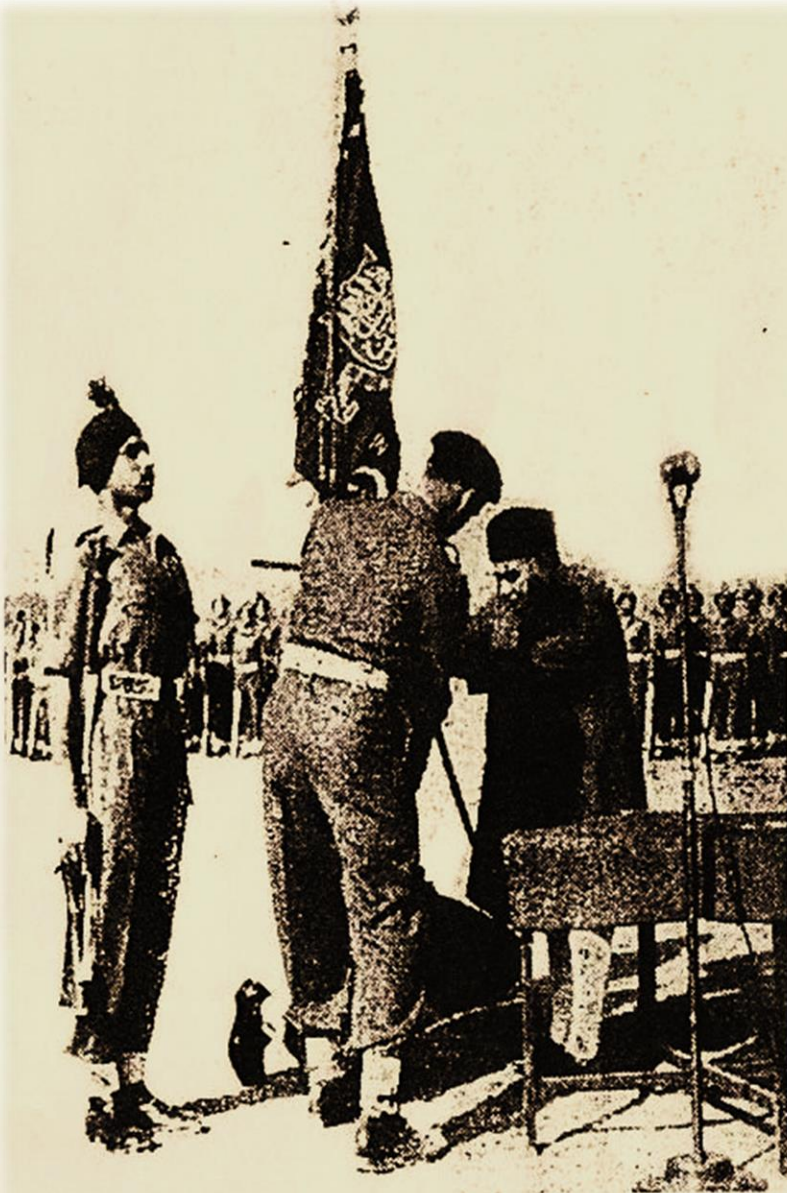
Message on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief was sent by the Chief of General Staff and was reproduced in the Academy orders of November 27, 1948. It read; -

"The Commander-in-Chief directs me to convey to you and your staff his heartiest congratulations on the excellence of the parade."

This graduation parade also saw the passing of the baton of senior cadets from IMA/PMA Course to us, the 1st PMA Course. In hindsight, what change it brought in its wake; briefly there was less outward showmanship, the bullying aspect was at lower key and the atmosphere was more congenial and homely. Famous poet, Hafeez Jullundri, the creator of the National Anthem, was also present at the occasion of this memorable first graduation parade. Inspired by the event, he wrote a poem Qiyadat, to describe the spirit; the motto, the feelings and aspirations and aims and objectives in the minds of would be graduating Gentlemen Cadets. It summarizes a message for them for eternity. Out of this legendary poem, which has been immortalized, we picked a verse and made it our motto

قیادت اسکو ملتی ہے
جیسے ذوق شہادت ہو

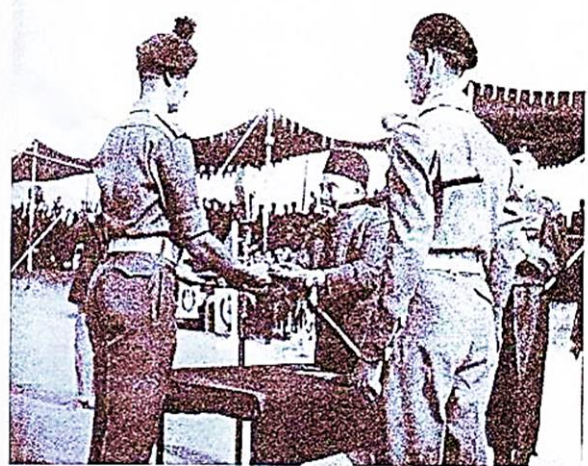
This verse is inscribed on our Diamond Jubilee and Platinum Jubilee Monuments



Presentation of Quaid-i-Azam's Banner to the 1st Pakistan Battalion. The Quaid-i-Azam could not present this Banner to the Battalion in person on April 29, 1948 due to his failing health



The Technical Graduates of the IMA/PMA Course, studying at Loughborough College, London, celebrating their passing out in UK. They were sent to UK, for technical training after ten months of training at the PMA and were commissioned with their course-mates on November 25, 1948



Battalion Senior Under Officer Sadiq-ur-Rashid Mohammad Abbasi receiving the first Sword of Honour from the Governor General

...The Glorious Tradition

The Quaid-i-Azam banner had already been instituted on the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony and at the first passing out Parade. It was decided to make it a symbol of honor, to be presented at the end of each term to the Champion Company; and to be carried on all ceremonial occasions by the elite Company, at the head of the parade. Khalid Company, having won the first Inter-Company Championship, was the first to be honored with the award of this Banner and, in an impressive ceremony held on January 25, 1949 in the Academy's Parade Ground, Colonel Ingall formally awarded this Banner to Khalid Company. The cadets of the champion company were also privileged to wear a Red Lanyard on their right shoulders as a mark of

distinction. During the same ceremony, the Commander-in Chief's Cup for athletics and sports was also introduced and awarded to Khalid Company.

...Change of Guards

The Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Latif Khan, MC, was posted out during the holidays, on February 19, 1949. He was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Akhtar Hussain Malik. The Academy re-opened in March for the spring term and the entire training and instructional activities started in full earnest.

CHAPTER 7

VISIT OF MADR –E- MILLAT



...Madr-e-Millat Miss Fatima Jinnah visits PMA

To our great happiness and pride, Madr-e-Millat Fatima Jinnah arrived for a visit to the PMA on May 23, 1949. In a way, it symbolized the fulfillment of the desire and the wish of the founder of this Nation, Quaid-i-Azam, to personally come, own this Battalion and to declare it as the Quaid-i-Azam's Own and to award the 1st Pakistan Battalion with this Banner.. It was a most profound and emotional experience for us, and we are equally sure for Miss Jinnah too. No other occasion in the History of PMA, had ever had such significance, nostalgic feelings and attachments as this. No other event ever after this, in all the annals of times to come, can have the same meaning, importance and sentimental significance. It was and will remain unique in our spirits and emotions.

On arrival at the PMA she was received by the Commandant and his staff officers and was taken around the entire complex of PMA. She visited the classrooms where the Cadets were studying, the Cadet's messes, their living areas, the hospital and the Child Welfare Centre. In Khalid Company, she saw the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner and took keen personal and emotional interest in it. This was the Banner that the Quaid was so keen to confer on PMA with his own hands. It is, and will remain the most Cherished Banner in the history of PMA and this Army.



Mad-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah with the Commandant (Brigadier Ingle) during her visit to the Academy on May 23, 1949



The Mad-e-Millat visiting the Child Welfare Centre, May 23, 1949, accompanied by the Commandant



Madre Millat Miss Fatima Jinnah visiting the Class Rooms

While writing the History of PMA and the 1st PMA Long course, we cannot forget the role of the Academic Staff. Very painstakingly, they were carefully selected. The education branch of the Academy was headed by Major (Later Lieutenant Colonel) Dr M.M. Ahmad, who had arrived at the Academy in November 1947, along with the Commandant, the Battalion Commander and the Chief Instructor. He was very experienced in the academic profession and being well educated himself; is aptly described in the Academy's old records as, "One of the Academy's principal assets." He very ably assisted Colonel Ingall, who being a Sandhurst Graduate himself, and who realized the role and importance of well qualified Civilian Team of Academic Instructors. Painstakingly, this team was built up and they left their indelible mark in imparting the quality of education that this key institution required. The Graduates of this Academy owe a great sense of admiration for this talented team, who had both the vision and the ability to perform their onerous task so skillfully and effectively. We still cherish the fond memories of these teachers with profound respect and affection. They were equal peers along with the other dedicated and committed military instructors at these Alumni.

The life passed on. It suddenly dawned on us that we were about to start our forth and the final term. The time between the second break, the third term and now the third break, all came and seemed to pass away as if within the twinkling of our eyes. Suddenly, we felt very happy that we were about to start our final term. The graduation that appeared a distant dream when we joined PMA was now appearing a close reality. It lifted our spirits immensely. The NANDA Bus service had also helped in making our visits to home on leaves and our return back to PMA, free of all hassles and encumbrances. The quiet and diligent work of GC M. R. Qazi, we all recognize, appreciate and owe a sense of gratitude to him. He was unassuming and a silent worker of the course. But never the less dedicated.

...Activities of Various Clubs

Besides the normal hard and rigorous training of PMA, the activities of the various clubs like riding, gardening, hiking and others, provided a very welcome relief and diversion for our minds. It was both refreshing and a good boost to our spirits. Some of the memories are reproduced in the way of some pictures of those activities



Hiking Club

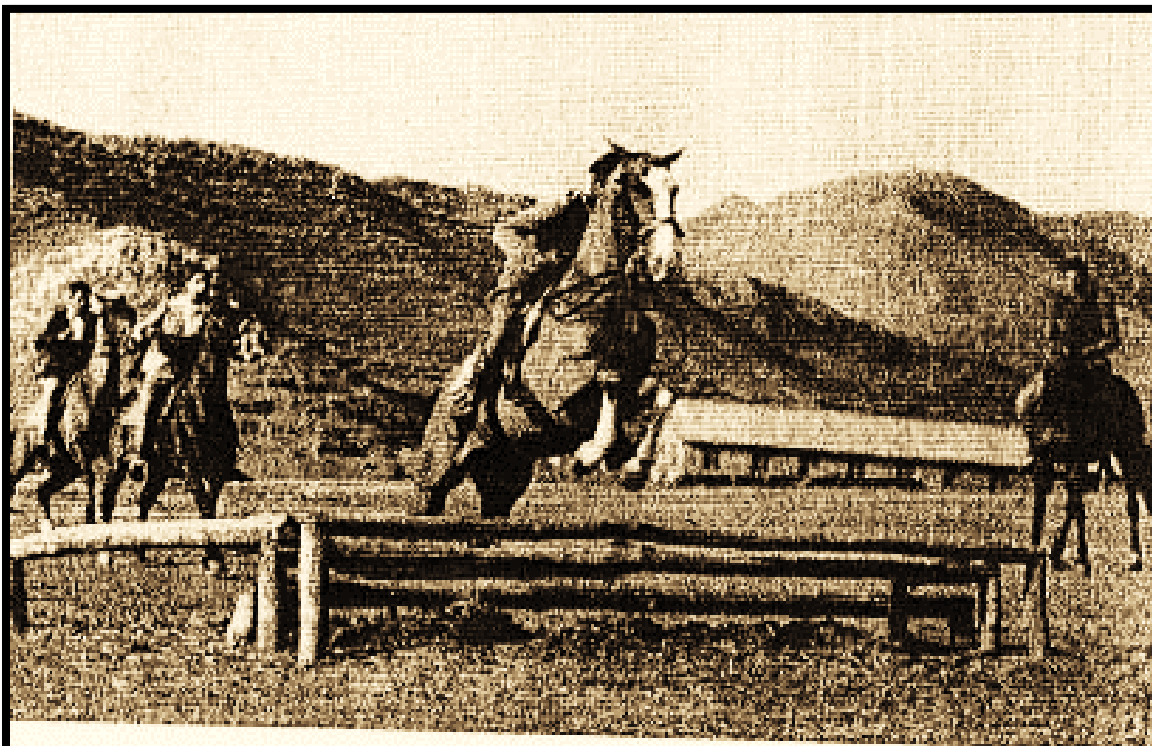


Hiking Club





A scene from the Urdu play, *Nawab Munnay Khan*, staged by the PMA Drama Club in 1949. Captain M. A. Qureshi, 8 Punjab Regiment, was the first Officer Adviser and Junior Under Officer Naeem was the first President of the club.



Show-jumping during the Riding Gala. The Commandant himself was the first Officer Adviser of the club

August 24, 1949, a new batch of cadets arrived at the PMA. They settled down peacefully as the Academy was closed for the long break. Their complacency of a quiet and peaceful entry into PMA was broken and soon disturbed by the arrival of the seniors, two days later. Freshly arrived seniors, in high spirits after the joy of leave and now this elated happiness that this was their last term, reared into action almost immediately. They devised ingenious methods of ragging, which culminated at the "Exercise Torture" staged on the hockey ground and followed by the "Inquisition" in the ante-rooms at night. The juniors literally went through hell- perhaps enjoyable sometimes-for four days till the ragging leveled to a more normal routine.

On the 30th of August, 1949, Salahuddin Company was raised, formally inaugurated and named after the victor of the battles of Hattlin (1187 AD) and Jerusalem. Major A.Hamid Khan was transferred from Khalid Company, to take up the command of the newly raised company. Major S.A.Z. Naqvi, known as SAZ (Music) by his contemporaries, succeeded Major Hamid. He introduced the novel practice of displaying the best turned out cadet on a specially placed board in the Company Area. It heightened the competition amongst the cadets and helped improve their standard of turn out. Some prominent athletes and sportsmen were also transferred from other companies to reinforce Salahuddin Company. GC M.Zafar Khan, an outstanding hockey player was posted as Senior Under Officer. While the "Ace" boxer GC Abdullah Khan Malik, was appointed the Junior Under Officer. These selected transfer and appointments gave Salahuddin Company a flying start. In hindsight it appeared to be act of favoritism. It won the inter Company Water Polo, and was awarded the Camp-Banner. They brought out two fortnightly papers The Sare (English) and Al-Ghazi (Urdu). With the establishment of Salahuddin Company, the 1st Pakistan Battalion reached its optimal strength of four Companies.

First Death Anniversary of the Quaid...

September 11, 1949 was the day of the first death anniversary of the Quaid-i-Azam. For the Pakistan Military Academy, it was a day of solemn remembrance and dedication to the Quaid's ideals. The Commandant addressed the officers and the Gentlemen Cadets in moving words. His address was recorded in the Academy Order of September 12, 1949. He said: -

"The Quaid's death could not have occurred at more unfortunate time. Kashmir is still without a solution and Indian threats to Hyderabad and possibly indeed to Pakistan and the Muslim World is coming to a head. Let us not despair in any way. Now is the time as Shakespeare says, to screw your courage to the sticking point."

After his address, the Commandant announced, that the Academy would remain closed for three days in observance of the first death anniversary of the Quaid.

...The Rising Crescent

The Academy magazine, The Rising Crescent, named by Colonel Ingall, was first published in June, 1949. It was meant to be a biannual publication, with its Urdu issue to be published every year in the month of February under the name Qiyadit. Its publication continues to this day, except for brief intervals during the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971. The name Rising Crescent was chosen by Colonel Ingall who recalls: -

"One evening in early summer, I was standing in my garden gazing towards the high mountains. As I watched, the new moon appears slowly over the mountain top, it had almost a perfect appearance of a scimitar. I coined the expression "The Rising Star" It typified our location and I hoped, would be symbol of future."



***Mr Liaquat Ali Khan,
First Prime Minister of Pakistan who raised his fist warning India***

CHAPTER 8

END OF AN ERA



The most exciting time of our stay in PMA was suddenly coming very close. We soon were beginning to realize that our dreams and hopes, with which we had arrived at PMA, were about to be realized and fulfilled. The date 4 February 1950 was fixed for our graduation parade. We were equally thrilled to learn, that the Prime Minister, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, would be reviewing this 3rd Governor General's Parade. For us it was an historic event. It had assumed three-fold significance. For the first time, the Prime Minister of Pakistan was to be the reviewing officer. Secondly for the first time in the history of PMA, the consecration of the colors ceremony would be performed. Thirdly, the first regular course trained entirely at the PMA would be graduating. The Prime Minister, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, had decided to arrive at the PMA a day earlier. He and his party was the guest of the Commandant for the dinner.

Brigadier Ingalls recalls the account of that meeting and the dinner with the Prime Minister:- *“My cook produced an excellent dinner and all was going well when the Prime Minister turned to me and said, tell me Brigadier Ingall, what I shall be required to do tomorrow?” I gave him the rough sketch of the timing and what should happen when he reached the parade ground. Then I said, when the time comes to present the colors, I will escort you forward, together with the cadet Battalion Commander, the Commander-in-Chief and the RSM. There two colors, the Regimental Color and the King’s Color. The Prime Minister choked and his face turned purple. Brigadier Ingall! Are you seriously telling me that you expect me to present a King’s color? I would remind you that this is Pakistan, a sovereign state, and we have no allegiance to the King. Needless to say, after this the soufflé was as flat as last week’s rice pudding. As soon as the dinner was over, I told the Battalion Commander to get the colors up to my house in double quick time. In very short order, Mr. Duffield and the Battalion Adjutant appeared, with two staff sergeants carrying the cased colors. With much sampling and saluting, Mr. Duffield revealed the standards in my drawing room. I did my best to explain the reason for the presence of the KING’S COLOR and that it had been approved by someone in the Ministry of Defense. The PM was not to be persuaded or mollified. He grunted something unintelligible, and then said, I am not going to present that flag tomorrow, or to any one, in Pakistan. I was totally shattered. It was 9:30 in the evening, and the ceremony was due to commence at 9 O’ clock the next morning. Mr. Duffield was marvelous. “Not to worry, Sir, I’ll have it all squared up by parade time. He and the Adjutant and the colors disappeared into the darkness. Mr. Duffield rose to the occasion, as usual. As soon as he left me, he went to his office, sketched out the amended drill for the presentation of the Battalion Colors only. He had the color party at parade at 6.00 a.m. for rehearsal, and by the time the real thing took place, all went without a hitch. The rejected King’s Color reposed in the halfway of my house for some weeks, and then I took it back to the GHQ and handed it over to Major Wilson, the Chief’s Military Secretary. I do not know what happened to it finally, but I have often regretted not keeping it as a memento of my early days at the Pakistan Military Academy.”*

It was grey morning, but the drill square was enlivened with a spectacle of colors and sounds. The gorgeous function was attended by the members of the Central Government, the Provincial Governments, and many distinguished visitor’s and guests from the Armed Forces and the Diplomatic corps. In all, some three thousand spectators watched the parade. Prior to the ceremony, the spectators witnessed an impressive display by massed bands and were entertained to martial music by some three hundred pipers and drummers.

The ceremony started as the 1st Pakistan Battalion (Quaid-i-Azam’s Own) marched on parade under the command of Regimental Sergeant Major V.C.Duffield, led by the Champion Company (Khalid) followed by Tariq , Qasim and Salahuddin. The Under Officers took up their appointed positions. The Battalion was drawn up, resplendent in their white ceremonial equipment, with their regimental plumes; The Adjutant rode on his white charger and was positioned in front of the Battalion. For the first time, the parade was commanded from the horse back, as was done at Sandhurst. A new tradition was set. Facing the Battalion was the saluting dais, draped in red carpet, and gaily decorated with the pennants of the formations and divisions which had taken part in World War II.

In the Centre of the dais, the Pakistan flag was ready to be unfurled on the arrival of the Prime Minister. Next, the Quaid-i-Azam’s Banner was brought with due solemnity. Thereafter, the parade was received by the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Akhtar Hussain Malik and the Commandant Brigadier Ingall.

At 10:30 am the Prime Minister of Pakistan, accompanied by the C-in-C Pakistan Army, General Sir Douglas Gracey arrived at the rare of the saluting dais and was received by the Commandant, the Chief Instructor and the Battalion Commander. The Prime Minister then ascended the saluting dais and the parade presented him

a General Salute. The Adjutant moved up on his bay horse, saluted the Prime Minister and reported "The Battalion present and ready for inspection, Sir." The Prime Minister inspected the parade by walking down its ranks. He returned to the dais and five drummers came forward smartly, piled their drums in little pyramid. The new Regimental Color was uncased and laid on the side of the drums. The Commandant then asked Lieutenant Colonel M.M. Ahmed, Chief Education Officer, to consecrate the Colors. He led the Battalion in a prayer that infested the occasion with a serenity of an Islamic Ceremony. Since then no consecration ceremony has been conducted in such an elaborate manner. He invoked the blessings of Allah on the Colors and read out the prayers. It was followed by a dedication and oath of allegiance. The troops were then called to attention and Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed laying his hands on the Colors, recited verses of Holy Qur'an. After the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, he continued to invoke the blessing of Allah. After the consecration the colors were formally presented. The Under Officers from the color party were called forward, and the senior under Officer handed the Regimental Colors to the Prime Minister who placed the flagpole in the belt of the Junior under Officer who knelt before him to receive the Colors. The Commandant then addressed the Prime Minister and the parade and accepted the Colors on behalf of the Pakistan Military Academy. Holding aloft the Colors, the Color Party joined the Battalion who paid their respect with a General Salute. The Prime Minister then presented the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner to Khalid Company which had retained this honor from the previous term. The Champions then escorted the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner and trooped it in slow time through the ranks of the Battalion from left to the right resuming their place of honor to the right of the Battalion. The Prime Minister then ascended the saluting dais and the parade presented him a General Salute.

After this the Adjutant handed over the Parade to the senior under Officer Raja Aziz Bhatti. The Adjutant rode off, dismounted and presented himself at the saluting dais. The Battalion Senior under Officer ordered the Battalion to form into columns of half companies, keeping the Regimental Colors in the forefront. The Battalion then marched past the Saluting Dais in their entire splendor with the Regimental Colors and the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner flying. After this the Battalion formed a hollow square.

The Prime minister, followed by the Commander-in-Chief, the Commandant, the Battalion Commander and the Adjutant walked up to the Battalion in order to make the presentations of the awards. The Prime Minister then conferred the insignia of MBE (Member of the British Empire) on Regimental Sergeant Major Duffield and his predecessor in the office Subedar Major Lehasab Khan, 13 Frontier Force Rifles. The Sword of Honor and the Norman Award were given to Senior under Officer Raja Aziz Bhatti.

Prime Minister's Address...

On conclusion of the presentation ceremony, the Prime Minister addressed the Parade:

"I am glad to be able, on my first official visit to the Academy, to present with the Colors. The flag is the emblem of honor for this Academy and the whole spirit of honor is enshrined in its folds. I have committed this flag to your faithful keeping. Let it be your symbol and inspiration for the future."

The Pakistan Military Academy was just two years old last week. As compared to other world academies, ours is still in its infancy but we have made a good start and laid the foundations. We have the material and above all we have the spirit, the traditions and high ideals of Islam... But in modern warfare that spirit and those ideals must be harnessed to professional knowledge and technique of the highest order to enable you to protect the honor of your country."

We have fought for and created Pakistan not merely because we wanted to have the satisfaction of calling ourselves independent, but because we have a definite mission. The mission is to create a society where not only the material needs of the people are satisfied but their yearning for a spiritual life is also fulfilled."

After the speech, the Prime Minister returned to the saluting dais. The Senior Division was ordered by the new Battalion Senior under Officer to take position on the rare of the Battalion. Following the Regimental Colors, the Senior Division marched off in slow time to the tune of Auld Lang Syne. As they slowly climbed the steps the Battalion presented arms to the Regimental Colors and showed their respect to the passing out cadets. Every step that we took, slowly climbing each at a time, our resolve kept strengthening and climaxed on our reaching the top.

It was one of steadfastness, unbridled commitment for the dignity and the honor of this Army and our Country, and above all our pledge to defend this at the peril of our careers or even our lives. Most of us have abided and lived up to it. A brief account of our course history may adequately prove this contention.

This was the culmination of our training at the PMA, and the elevation for a more endearing role at a higher level, as the Officers and future Commanders of this Army. Destiny perhaps did not permit us to achieve it to the level of the lofty dreams that we harbored in our hearts and minds. But we did our best.

The new Battalion Senior under Officer then requested the Prime Minister for the permission to march off the remainder of the Battalion. With the Quaid-i-Azam's Banner in the fore, The Battalion in the columns of threes marched past the Prime Minister who took the salute. After the parade, Mr. and Mrs. Liaquat Ali Khan and the other distinguished guests were invited to a lunch in the officer's mess, with a select band in attendance. The guests of the cadets had their lunch in the cadet messes.



The Prime Minister Inspecting the Parade



GC Raja Aziz Bhatti Getting the Sword of Honour from PM Liaquat Ali Khan



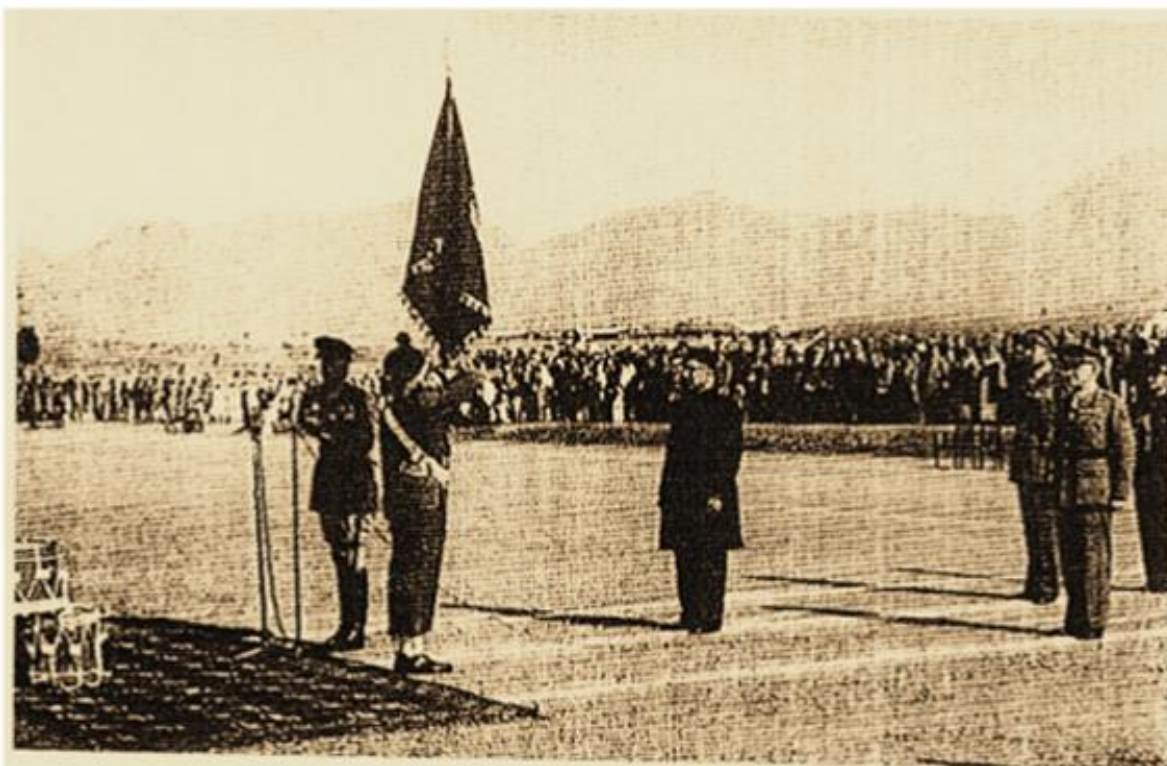
Major Aziz Bhatti receiving
Norman Medal from PM Liaquat
Ali Khan.

1st PMA 1950

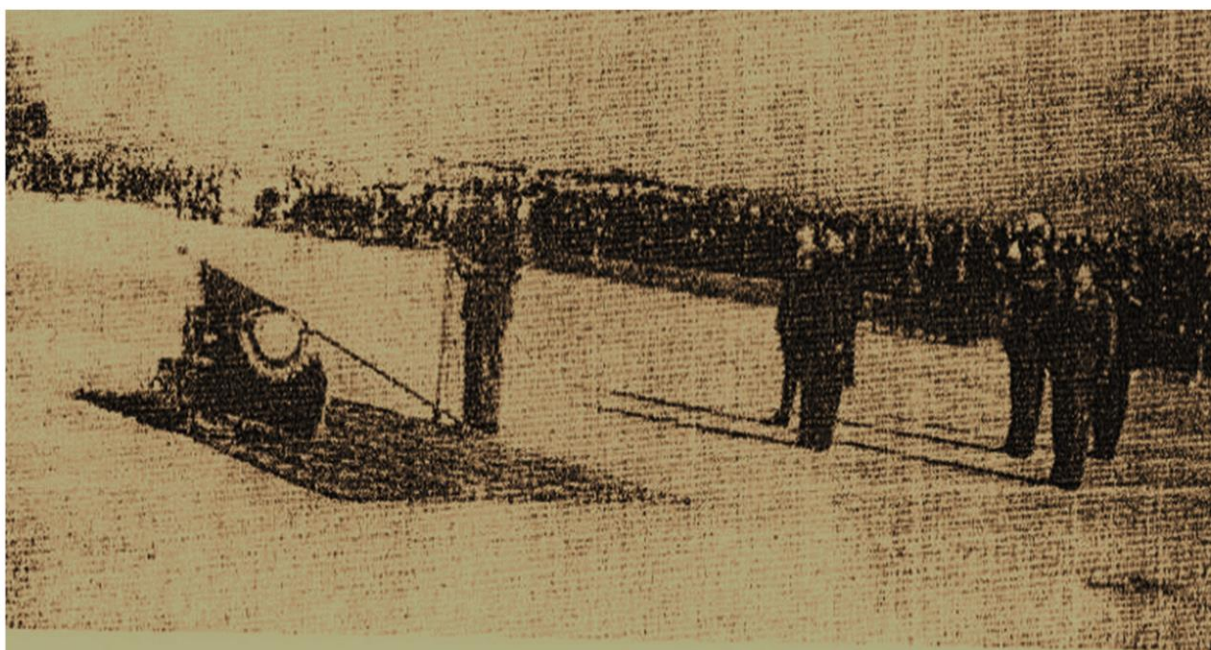
GC Raja Aziz Bhatti Getting Norman Medal from PM Liaquat Ali Khan



Conferment of the Insignia of *Member of the British Empire* on RSM Duffield.
RSM V. C. Duffield of 3rd Battalion, the Coldstream Guards, was personally selected as the Drill Regimental Sergeant Major by Brigadier Ingall. He became a legend at Kakul for his high standards of drill, discipline and turn out



Colours Presentation Ceremony



Consecration of Regimental Colours



The Prime Minister after the parade. Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan (1st from left) and Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan (6th from left) are also seen in the photograph.

SUCCESSFUL PMA CADETS

RAWALPINDI, March 1: The following cadets passed out of the Pakistan Military Academy on Feb 4, after successful completion of their training, says a Press note issued here today.

Raja Aziz Bhatti, Lagman Mahmood, Malik Mohammad Sharif, Mohammad Zafar Khan, Faqir Mohammad Khan Yusufzai, Mohammad Akram, Gul Hayat, Abdullah Khan Malik, Ahmad Jamal Khan, Iqbal Mehdi Shah, Yusuf Ali, Sardar Ahmad, Mohammad Saadat Ali, Mohammad Iqbal Hussain, Mian Fazlul Reheem, Abdul Wadud Khan, Hamid Hussain, Jahan Dad Khan, Muzaffar Khan, Malik Mufti Wajahat Hussain Siddiqui, Nasirullah Khan Babar, Hayatullah Khan, Ishtiaq Ali Shah Gilani, Mir Azizi Alam Khan, Mohammad Ahmad Mian Mohammad Mahmud, Mohammad Riaz Khan, Zafar Hashmat, Jahanzeb

Khan Bangash, Azhar Ali Syed,
 Ghulam Satdar Butt, Mohammad
 Ayaz Khan, Wazir Dildar Rana,
 Asad Khan, Mir Abdul Naveem Ka-
 leemur Rahman Mirza, Muinuddin
 Ahmad Faruqi, Azizur Rahman,
 Asif Ali Mohammad Saleh, Syed
 Zair Hussain, Ijazuddin Khan, Nazi-
 rul Haq Shaikh Syed, Mohammad
 Raza, Mohammad Hassan Durrani,
 Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar, Syed
 Sajjad Haider, Chaudhri Moham-
 mad Hasan Mubarak, Mohammad
 Hussain Tiwana, Mohammad Saeed
 Malik, Syed Abid Hussain, Chowdh-
 ry Mohammad Anwar, Salis Ahmad
 Qureshi, Asghar Ali Jilani, Habib
 ur Rahman Qadir, Mohammad
 Saeed Khan, Mahmuduz Zaman Ha-
 mid, Hamid Ahmed Kreashi, Mo-
 hammad Akhtar Rizwan, Vazir Ra-
 jat Abdul Hussain, Rehmat Ali
 Shah, Ijaz Ahmad Vahidy, Mahmud-
 ur Rahman Qazi, Sardar Moham-
 mad Hussain Shikoh.—APP.

Right from time at PMA, GC Muhammad Hassan Durrani, kept a regular diary in which he maintained the daily observations and comments the way he saw the events happening. It has not been possible to obtain the extracts of the relevant portions of this diary.

However, some extracts of the notes written by Lt Col Abid Hussain were forwarded by his family. The same are produced in his original hand writing.

They make an interesting reading...



GC Abid Hussain conducting a discussion session. Capt. Bukhari is overseeing

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وزارت کے خلاف سول نا فرحانی کی کا حساب ہم چلدرٹی۔ مجھے ایک سال قید سوئی پاکستان معز
 جود میں آ گیا۔ انگریزی غلامی سے اور پندوں کی قصابی اتریت سے نجات ملی۔ میں پاکستان ملری
 لکڑی کی لکڑی منتخب کر لیا گیا۔ 24 جنوری 48ء ہمارا لوہا شروع ہوا۔ 4 فروری 48ء ہمیں مکیشن ملی

پاکستان ملری آلڈیٹی

بی۔ ایم۔ اے

ملری آلڈیٹی کسی بھی ملک کی فوج کی ریڑھ کی ہڈی ہوتی ہے۔ نوجوان آفیسرز

اپنی ابتدائی فوجی سکھدرٹی یہاں کرتے ہیں اور لکڑی (فوجی مدرسہ کا طالب علم جیسے دینی حق

کا طالب علم) کہلاتے ہیں۔ یہ نو عمر لکڑی پچیدہ انتخابی عمل سے لکڑی منتخب ہوتے ہیں اور دو سال کی

کمرسی، ستواتر اور مفصل ٹریننگ کے بعد لکڑی مکیشن ملتا ہے۔ انسانی بحول، چوک اپنی جگہ لکڑی پی ایم

کی پھلنی کافی ہوتی ہے۔ بہر حال احمد قی ٹریننگ پر زیادہ زور نہیں دیا جاتا۔ کچھ غلط اور ناروا

عاداتیں، رویے اور کمزیر عادتیں پسند، اعانت اور سفارش کے بل بوتے پر لکڑی فوج میں

اپنے ساتھ لیا جاتا ہے۔ چونکہ لکڑی نو عمر و اثر پذیر ہوتا ہے اس کی لغزشوں کی آبیاری اس کے

لئے فطرت تانیہ بن جاتی ہے۔ جرات، سپاہی حق گوئی کی نہ یہ پذیرائی نہیں کی جاتی۔ ایسی صفات

متر بار ہوتے ہیں دیا جاتا۔ بزرگی، خوشامد، منافقت، چغل خوری اور حیوٹ کی سپین کی آڑ

میں ایڈز کے چرٹو کے لکڑی لکڑی کے درہن اور اخلاق محروم و فلول کر دیتے ہیں۔ ان فوجی سپاہی

ہم جب قدر چاہتے کہ جری اور بہادر ہوں اس کا آفیسر اپنی پیشہ ورانہ ہنر اور عشاقی کے ساتھ ساتھ

بھی کوئی سال اپنی پوسٹ پر رہا اور سرگند ٹی بی بن گیا۔ اگرچہ وہ میرا تو فی جلدی اور بروقت تبدیل نہ ہوا
 ہوئی تھی وہ اس گھر پر رہا تھا۔ اس وقت تو میں گھڑے میں نہ تھا۔ شریک بالکان میں نام لکھا تھا۔ جیل جا
 سے سیاسی قید میں بھی حاصل کر چکا تھا۔ اگرچہ میں سرگند ٹی بی دن سیاسی پارٹی بدلنے کی عادت متعلم ہو جاتی
 جس سے ہونا تھا میں ایک ایسا تجربہ کار فرسٹ طور جانا اور لکھا جاتا کہ کوئی وزارت میرے بناء اعتبار و اعتماد
 کے قابل نہ ہوتی۔ وزیر کی مارگریٹ ایڈس سکرٹری کی سرکون منت ہوتی ہے۔ اپنی قابلیت پر انحصار ہوتا ہے۔
 بی ایم اس میں ہم سن گم لکھتے تھے۔ اولڈ رائیل انڈین ملٹری کالج دہلی (دون) یہ کالج انڈین
 سرکار فتح کر کے فاسٹ سروس اور آفسران اور جالور اور ڈیرہ نو الہ ہمان جو انڈین سروس کے آرمی
 ہوئے تھے۔ ان کے بڑوں کو فوج میں اعلیٰ عہدوں پر فائز کرنے تاکہ بروقت ضرورت فرمائندہ اور ان کے
 کی تو فوج کا فہم سروس کرکے۔ ثانیاً کنگ جارج رائیل انڈین ملٹری کالج ایلم فوجی سپاہی اور ان کے
 کے بچوں کیلئے تاکہ فوج کو بھرتی کیلئے تعلیم یافتہ سپاہی مل سکیں ان ریسکس میں انڈینوں کو غوراً آنکھ
 جانتا رہتے رہے۔ اول الذکر قسم کے لیڈنگ انڈین (ایچ) بولتے تھے تعلیمی لحاظ سے اچھا ہے۔
 تھے۔ مرنے جلنے میں بے خوف اور فوجی انڈین کا تعلیمی بھارت اچھا ہے۔ کچھ احساس کسری کا انکار ہے کچھ
 ذہنی الجھاؤ کا۔ ہمارے جوا سر و جہان ان اداروں میں تعلیم حاصل کر چکے تھے اپنے کلاس کی
 طرف جھکاؤ رکھتے تھے۔ ثالثاً ہم عام سکول کا بچوں کے طالب علم تھے شروع شروع میں وہ اردو
 ہم پر فوجی ڈرل اور مشقوں میں فوقیت رکھتے تھے لیکن ہم جلد ہی برابری کی فوجی زندگی لگے۔ ہمارے

بے مثال اخلاق و کردار کا بھی مادہ ہو۔ ایچ جی ٹان ان ہندول و خوشامدی حدیدہ دلیر ہیں ہندول
 وہ افواج مجاہدین کا سپر لدر کسے ہو سکتا ہے۔

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میرا بی۔ ایم۔ اے پچھنا ایسے ہوا جسے ”سرفورڈھائی اور پٹرے“ ہیں ان کے دیکھتے ہی ہمت
 کہنی کمانڈر ناراضی اور مری بلڈوں کمانڈر ختم آلودہ پہلے ماکہ اندر اندر ان دونوں کی اہلیا پر مری
 پیشی بلڈین کمانڈر کے ہوئی۔ بلڈین کمانڈر ہی قدرے غفلت میں مبتلا نظر آئے کہ دعویٰ سی یا پرائی
 آنکھیں باہر اور آواز اچھی ہوئی۔ مجھ ان کا انداز فضول فضول لگا تو میں سکر آیا۔ میں سکر آیا تو بلڈین
 کمانڈر سنبھلے ذرا دیر خاموش رہنے بعد ”تم مجھ کافی دلیر لڑکے نظر آتے ہو۔ میں امید کرتا ہوں تم ایک
 ماکہ کے اندر اندر اس Dangerous Zone سے نکل جاؤ گے۔ اور یہی سوار گنن جھمکی
 بدلی ہو چکی تھی۔ اس پہلے کہ ان دونوں بھی جھمکے لگے وہ بھی تبدیل ہو چکے بلڈین کمانڈر کو ہاری دیا
 جیگر گنڈ ٹی بی لگے اور چارج رکے میں سازش کس میں سزا پار جیل گئے۔ کہنی اور بلڈوں کمانڈر کو
 ہاری بدعا ہوئی اول الذکر جنرل اور مؤخر الذکر جنرل سوئے (بڑا ہی جھگڑا تھا)
 اول الذکر جنرل جنرل میں کمانڈنٹ کی نظر بد میں ہی آگیا۔ ہوا اول کہ جی۔ ایچ۔ کیو سے جو انڈین
 ہیں برٹش کانس و بلیٹہ پر لکھ دیے آیتھا۔ کانس و بلیٹہ نے فوڈس میں بھی لکھ لیا کہ ہیں اگر بھارت کے قتل
 کوئی انڈین جنس ہے ہوتو کانس و بلیٹہ آفس ہمارا لکھا۔ میں نے ان کو لکھ دیا ”یہ تو بھارت بھی ہمارے
 مصلحتوں پر انڈین جنس ہے لکھا“ کمانڈنٹ جو ہم انڈین تھا اس کی ناراضگی دیر پا نہ تھی۔ بچی اپنی

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۱۔ ہم ملاسوں میں جو جنرل نے انکی مختصر تفصیل دی ہے - RMC = ۲۵ KGRPMC = ۱ عام

سکول اور کالج والوں میں سے = 4۔ انڈیئر سکولوں کی واپسی بات سوتی ہے علی زندگی میں وہ
کچھ بن کر شلڈ۔ صدر وزیر اعظم گورنر چیف آف سٹاف (پرتن افواج کے) عام سکول اور
کالج سے تعلیم حاصل کرنے والوں کے مقابل میں ہمیشہ پیچھے رہے۔ یہ ذہنی شہور مشقت اور قدر
پر منحصر ہے۔ سکول کالجوں کی بھاپ ہے سب کچھ ایس سوتی وہ صرف نا عاقبت اندیشوں میں کی ظہیر
چھوڑ دیا سکتی ہیں۔

بی اے میں زندگی تناؤم لچھاؤ اور باؤس رہتی تھی جیسے انڈیئر حکومت میں سرکاری ملازم ملو
تھنا ہوا۔ فضا بے اعتباری سے اودہ کوئی لڈٹ اپنے نمبر ٹھکانے خود شہادت نہ بھی لکھے پچھنے پر پی
گمنوری کے سبب دور سے کرٹی الزام خوب ہے۔ فوج میں کلاڈٹلن ہے کتنی خشک و نامرغوب پڈیلن
صحت افزا نہیں تعلقن جیسے محبت نہیں لکائی جاتی۔ ایمان افروز نہیں ہوتا۔ ڈیلن بھی نہیں سیکھا ناچا لکنا
یہ مثال و نمونہ سے فروغ پالکٹا بات ہے۔ اس لئے سکھلائی والد اور دفتری علم پر دو ہمتا
کر دار وے سوں تانہ وہ کڈٹس لکھنے نمونہ ہوں۔ انکی دیکھا دا کھی یہ ابتدا ڈیلن اور کردار

سنواریں
۲۔ ہم دو کورس لکھے۔ پہلا کورس دو سال کا تھا۔ گریجویٹ کورس
ایک سال کا۔ وہ کڈٹس جو آئی ایم اے سے ایک ٹرم کر آئے تھوہ ہمارے سینئر سیوے
۳۔ اس کے بعد اس کے اوپر لیسوں میں لوٹ لیتے سے سخت درد ہوتا تھا۔ میں RMC
کے پاس گیا تانہ دو چار روز لکھنے لوٹ لیتا معاف کرے۔ ڈاکٹر سمجھا اس ڈرل سے بچنے بیا نہ کر
۴۔ تم جس میں اس کے تانہ ہوتا پٹرا۔ "تم میرے ساتھ لکھائی کر رہے ہو" ڈاکٹر غنہ
سے جھانک لکھتے ہوئے بولے۔ "تم رسی لکھتی ہو" دل تو چاہا کہ تھا ایک فکر سے کہوں

(38)

تو کہنے لگے ”کوئی بات نہیں کہیں کہیں اس سوچا رہے“ اچھے خاندان والوں کی نہ شان ہے عینہ ہند کر لیا اور باغی خواہ بڑھا گیا۔

بی ایم آے میں سے کیونٹ شہر تھا۔ ایک دفعہ میں بی ایم آے ہسپتال میں داخل تھا۔ ان دنوں میں شان کی سوانح حیات پڑھ رہا تھا۔ یہ کوئی کتاب میرے بڑے بھائی شہر پر پڑی تھی ہسپتال کی میٹرن کوک ایک

پوٹھی انگریز میں تھی راولڈ پرائی۔ کتاب دیکھ کر ڈرئی۔ ”My dear mama, why“

؟ ”do you read Stalin's biography“۔ 49 میں جب کائنات نے کیونٹ چین کو تسلیم کیا تو میرے بی ایم آے کیف میں اپنے دوستوں کو جانے بلدی اور کھانا کھا کر کھڑے۔ مجھ پر اردو

Alaidov Hussainovich لکھ کر رکھا کرتے۔ راکھ راولڈی سازش کیس کا جب میرے دوستوں نے

تو میرے تعلق پر شان سوئے کہ کہیں میں بھی دھرتی نہ لگا گیا ہوں۔ دوڑھائی جا کہ پشتر میرا بندہ دوست

ی ہوئے خط لکھا۔ زمانہ سولہواں ہے کہیں۔ انہوں نے استفسار فرمایا ”تمہارے کیونٹ لکھنا کا کیا بنا“

میں نے سوڈن کے بادشاہ کسٹاف کا قول لکھ دیا ”جو ان کے اور انہوں کی ہیں۔ دل نہیں رکھا جو

بالغ انٹرنیٹ کے باوجود انہوں نے۔ دماغ نہیں رکھا۔“ ویسے کیونٹم ایک اقتصادی نظام ہے مگر

اس کے بانیوں نے بلاوجہ مذہب کے نام پر اس نظام پر دھرم بھجایا۔ لکھاری اور اس طرح مذہب پر ہند اور

مذہب گریز پر دو علماء اور اقتصاد و معاشیات اس کے خلاف تھے لے اور ہزاروں جانیں اس میں فوری

حیرال میں ضائع ہو گئیں۔ سویت یونین کا عظیم سقوط اشتراکی اصولوں کی ناکامی نہیں ہوا۔ رسول علی چکری نے

(37)

آدھر پائینل آؤٹ میں دو چار دن ادھر ایک لیٹاں سے اٹھنا۔ انا کس و خراب کس کے مترادف تھا۔

مگر کس کی حفاظت کیلئے تو میں تو میرا منت نہیں ہوتی۔ میں نے اپنی ساری ملازمت میں دو چیزوں کا پورا

خیال رکھا ہے۔ چھپنا نہیں اور کھانا نہیں کھانا۔ شاید اسے روتے سے کچھ کھانا ملا ہو میں نہیں جانتا

نظارا کس نے کبھی تادیب کی نہ تینہ قلم کی مار جو دے تے اس کا گلہ پر جو تھا نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔ کیس

مدد بڑا محمد جو لکھ میں لفٹنگ جنرل بھی بنے اور وفاقی وزیر بھی بنے۔ بلڈون لمانڈر تھے۔ انہیں آ

کند نہیں سے بڑا بیا تھا۔ الٹ 49 سے یہ بیکار بلڈون لمانڈر تھے۔ یہ امریکہ بلڈون لمانڈر نے ہوں تو

میں شاید بی ایم آے سے یکیش نہ لے سکتا۔ ڈاکٹر محمد آباد کر کے ایک ممتاز خاندان کے کر کے بڑے

مذہب و شائستہ۔ نہ جانے وہ مجھ سے کیوں خار کھا لے ماس میں لیا ان سے اٹھنا۔ کبر حال انہوں نے سری اور

کردی۔ سر بلڈون لمانڈر فوراً ماس میں سے لے کر لکھا کر جانے کا کچھ ماس بلڈون

مجھ کا واقعہ دریافت کیا۔ میں نے صحیح بات بتادی ”میں نے کوئی لکھنا نہ کرنا ہو یہی علم ہے

سick Report ہے دن بدن بڑھ رہی ہے مگر مجھے وہ کونکر بیان کرنے کا الزام دے رہے ہیں“

محکم سے میرے خلاف کوئی بھی کارروائی کی جا سکتی ہے۔ کمیشن لینے میں اپنے آبیوز لپل نہیں کر لکھا

”آبیوز لپل ہے میں تو میں اسے یہ دیکھ کر دو لکھا۔ ورنہ یہ کافی ہے معنی سافٹ ہے“

دن شام میں ایک دوست کی بیمار پر کر کے الٹی می ہسپتال گیا ہوا تھا کہ ڈاکٹر بھی آگے مجھے دیکھا تو انکے

ہرے پر کوئی غصہ یا تردد نظر نہ آیا بلکہ مسکراتے ہوئے مجھے ہلکے کیا۔ میں نے جو تسلیم کیا اور ہسپتال

(4)

”میں کا کھانا کھانے کے قابل نہیں ہوتا۔“ ”تو شاہ جی کسمپاتی کی تاج بھی تو میں
میں رکھ کر ہی آخر کس لئے۔“ ”دکھا دے کیلئے۔ اب وہاں ٹھہر دیکھو تو میں“ ”وہ میں دیکھ

نوگاہ پھر اسی حرکت سرزد نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ ” ہم اے انور کر شیعہ آرگنائزیشن اچھا ہے۔ ہم میں ہر ایک کرتے ہیں۔ ” ہاں ہاں کسی پیر کے نکلنے پر نہیں نکلتے۔ ” سرنگار کا کھانا مزیدار بھی ہوگا اور روحانی طور پر بھی۔ ” ” آخر خوراک جو کچھ ہے۔ ”

دس بارہ دن کھانا بیا سوتا اٹھتا بھی جانتے۔ مگر پھر مسالوں میں لذت نہ رہی اور ہم ٹوٹوں
 عیت نہ بڑھی۔ اسیر ایک واقعہ پی ایم اے کا یاد آ رہا۔ کتاب شہادت جب ”سرس میں بال تھا۔
 مگر نہ تھی۔“ شہادت تھا ”مگر نہ تھی تو رہا اس زمانہ ملک لخت خورشید نے سب لڑکوں کو اٹھایا اور ان کے اٹھانے

اور غصہ سے لرزے کا پتہ نہ دیا ہوئے ” میں نے چاروں عیسویں کی کتاب شہادت دیکھی ہیں۔ مگر
میں بالکل بے گمانی سے۔ بھنورا ہے۔ آئندہ محنت کریں تاکہ اس کا سوڈہ یا بوٹ کا تیار نہ ہو سکی
ہمودہ و ناروا شہادت اس لئے لکھا کہ ” آندھ کی طرح خالی برساتے اور بکری کی طرح جھنڈا بائبل لے
چونکہ عمارتیں ترقی پذیر تھیں اور زندگی کے اس موڑ میں نوا ترقی۔ سب سے تیز چھوڑا اسپنڈا پڑ جائے

15

4 فروری ۱۹۵۰ء کو ہیں یعنی فرسٹ پی ایم اے ٹوٹ اور سیکشن مل لیا گیا فوٹو ۱۰/۱۱/۵۰

تھا۔ عماری باستاناؤں پر پڑی میراثاوت علیغان فرید علیہم بالکمان سلامی لکھتے تھے۔ فیصلہ مارشل
سرکلڈ آؤٹ لکھتے بھی دے دیتے تھے۔ ان سے آدھ ان کے لیے اللہ ہی کفایت باہر حلقہ اسماعیلی مصافحی نما اور

دو چارٹس بات چیت کی بڑی دلنشین شخصیت کے حامل تھے۔ پرائیڈ اورٹ کے بعد میں تقریباً ایک ماہ لکھی گئی۔ ہم نے اکیں الفنسٹس سول کو بیٹھا جانا تھا۔ ہم نے ایک اور راولینڈی سے ریکارڈ میں

کوئی جانے کوئی۔ ان دنوں ملک سفر خاصا مليا تھا۔ لاہور سے ڈائمنڈ کار لی تھی۔ پہلے دن

سینے جیغہ اور کھجکا۔ دودھ سے اگلے آئے "اوسیر مہب" دوچار پھلے ڈالیں تاکہ روٹی میں

قدوہاں نرسوں پر بھی تھے ایک دم اٹھ کھڑے ہوئے اور چہلے دھڑکی۔ آج ان دونوں پیروں
کی بڑی قدر و منزلت تھی۔ کچھ سناوٹی پیروں نے اپنے ترقوت۔ کچھ نئے بیڑھے کھوں کی روحانی راہ راہی

ان قدروں کے دم توڑ دیا۔ {

کوئی ایک چھوٹا سا صاف ستھرا اخیابور شہر تھا۔ یہاں ہم سب جو کل تک رہے وہ لڑیں
تھے آج غائبانہ نئے نئے دیوارے ملنے آئے تھے۔ قریب کوئی بیسواڑے لکڑیوں کے دیوارے

نام توڑا تھا لیکن ہماری رائیسی کا خاطر خواہ بندوبست نہیں تھا۔ کچھ سڑکے اہول میں اٹکا۔ والی
بت تھی۔ کاکول اور کوٹھ میں رائیسی لکڑی سینی موٹی سپرنگ لکڑوں میں تھی۔ کاکول کی رائیسی

سہہ نیا۔ سینٹرز اور ایبرز۔ انٹرنیٹ اور جونیئر جیمز خداوند پریم کے فضل پریم و رحم سے اب سینٹرز تھے چونکہ
 ساڈ ڈیڑھ سو برس آؤٹ بھی سو رہے تھے۔ بہت دھڑات علی ایچ کوڈی نڈر کے پریڈ ٹراؤنڈز
 اور کنگز ال آبا کر تھے۔ ہیروں پر طمانیت ہونٹوں پر بڑا اعتماد تبسم آنکھوں میں ملنے والی مکتبی
 جگہ لیکن دل میں خوف و خطر، دین پر پریشانیوں کا بوجھ بڑھ کر الی حال میں بے ڈھنگی To be
 he to be کی غماضی کر چکی تھیں { زیر لب سکریتے اور ایک دوسرے کو چونڈیاں لگاتے بال نہ لگتے دیکھتے
 کچھ دنوں میں میں کھانے کے وقت ٹھس ٹھس میں گن گن کر ”دیکھ لو کھی آپس سنوڑ تو لیں۔ آپس تلہ تو لیں“
 کی گردان سنائی دی۔

Memoirs of Lt Col (R) (late) S. Abid Hussain
 Gilani
 تلم و عمل

ميجر جنرل اختر حسین ملک بالکان فوج کے مشہور جنرل گذرے ہیں۔ بی ایلم ویس نہیں پر ہمارے
 کے عرصہ بڈالین لمانڈر تھے۔ دوسری دفعہ جب میں الفنزئی سکول کوئیٹ میں پھیرا پھیرا ٹیلے نوڈ میں مرن لانا
 تو یہ الفنزئی سکول کے لمانڈانٹ تھے (سینئر آفسرز ٹیلے کورس کر سکو وقت جنرل ناٹلر نازی لمانڈانٹ
 تھے جنہوں نے مشرقی بالکان میں ہندوؤں کے سامنے پتھار ڈالے۔ یہ بھی لطیفی لطیف گل نہ ظرافت دھار
 تھے۔ شہی خلاق میں قوم کی سبکی سردی اور جنرل اروڑا کے سامنے ظریفانہ انداز میں پتھار ڈال دیئے)
 ميجر جنرل اختر حسین ملک جب آزاد کشمیر میں افواج بالکان کے لمانڈر جنرل تھے تو انہوں نے صدر الزور
 کے سامنے ایک بلڈن رکھا جس کے تحت مقبوضہ کشمیر میں بھارت کے خلاف بغاوت سکھائی کرنے

...CHAPTER 9

THE NEW LIFE

The newly won thrill of having been commissioned in the Army, soon began to wear out as we reached the Infantry School, Quetta. The life was hectic, and the hard and sturdy ways of the Army life were in full evidence during the weapons training. Equally amusing was the typical language used by our JCO and NCO instructors. It was cryptic, rustic and had its own special sense of humor. We did the I.W.W-10 and J.O.L-10 courses at the Infantry School, Quetta from 6 March to 15 July 1950. Raja Rab Nawaz, who had joined PMA with us and had later maneuvered his release on medical grounds, was also living in Quetta and doing successful business as a contractor. He had kept his links with some of us from the PMA days, and gave an open invitation to the 1st PMA Course mates to be his guests, whenever, they so deem to choose. Some of us very regularly availed this invitation and enjoyed his hospitality during our stay at Quetta. Our stay here was the last occasion that 1st PMA Course stayed together in our service career. At the end, we either joined the units that we were posted to, or else proceeded for our further training in the Arm or Service that we were assigned to.

The Gunners of Our Course



Ten of us had been selected for Artillery and we proceeded direct to Nowshera to do our Young Officers Course. Four officers of the Bahawalpur Army also joined us on this course. Some of the interesting events and recollections of our stay there can be summarized. The Gun Drill was an important part of our training. It was done on the standard 25 Ponder Gun which had a detachment of six. Every member had a number and each number had his assigned place on the gun, and his duties were clearly prescribed. During the course these numbers were rotated every day to familiarize us with the duties of all the respective positions on the gun. One of the biggest jokes of the course was that Jehan Dad Khan and Nasir Ullah Babar, would never remember which position to take, when the instructor would give the order "Take Post". They would shoot out fast from their tracks where we were lined up for our gun drill training, and would take the full round of the gun at top speed. In the meantime, the others would proceed direct to their position on the gun as per their number. Then seeing the vacant place on the gun, they would come enthusiastically jumping on to it. The instructors had sensed this and would remind them both, that they do seem to appreciate their enthusiasm and speed at the gun drill, but the fact is that these two, do not know their position on the gun.

This went on throughout the course. Also, JD had a little mechanical way of running and that too was the butt of the jokes.

So far, we were living in the officer's messes at the Infantry School and now the Artillery School. We the gunners had not seen the mess life of the Army Units. Located at Risalpur was the only Armored Brigade of the Army. Nasirullah Khan Babar's uncle, Lieutenant Colonel Ihsan Ullah Babar was at that time commanding 13 Lancers, which was part of that brigade. Babar suggested to some of us to accompany him to Risalpur to meet with his uncle. This we did and cycled the distance to reach their mess on one evening. This was the first exposure for some of us to the life in a unit mess in the Army. The Armor messes had rich and impressive collection of silver and other war trophies. We were very suitably impressed. But the most interesting and the enjoyable experience was the atmosphere that we saw which prevailed in the mess. Babar's uncle, Ihsan Ullah, introduced us to Lieutenant Colonel (Later Lieutenant General) Gul Hassan, who was Commanding 5 Horse (Probyn's Horse). They both were pleased to meet us. They made us feel completely at home. We were kept engaged in a very lively discussion. They showed a lot of keenness to know our feelings and experience of joining the Army. Equally they would describe their life that they had spent in the Indian Army and their combat experience. It seemed like a role model for us. In particular, Lieutenant Colonel Gul Hassan, had a very distinguished record of service. He had seen combat in the Burma Theatre, was ADC to Field Marshal Slim and had the proud privilege to be the first ADC to Quaid-i-Azam. We were quite thrilled and happy, and then kept visiting them regularly during our stay at the Artillery School. This happy, healthy and a most informal association that we had developed, continued throughout the rest of the lives of a small group of us, who kept these close contacts with both these officers as long as they lived. It was an excellent influence on our young and impressionable minds. It was a sharing of mutual respect; remembering and acknowledging each other's straight forward approach and above everything with no inhibitions. That endeared this relationship. We were equally very impressed by the caliber of the officers that we met at those get togethers in the mess.

Our training as young artillery officers was soon reaching its culmination. It was a well-planned and well conducted curriculum of both technical and outdoor training. We were asked for our choice of units. Zafar, who belonged to Peshawar was very strongly suggesting to all of us to ask for posting to units in Peshawar. We had visited this place regularly during our stay at the Artillery School and seemed to like it. Durrani, Akhtar, Mahmud, Zafar and some others from the course, had given the choice of 8 Medium Regiment and 12 Medium Regiment, which were located at Peshawar. While towards the end of the course, a friendly hockey match was played between 1 Mountain Regiment and a team raised from the school. Lieutenant Colonel Muzaffar, who was commanding this unit, saw Zafar playing for the school team and immediately picked him for posting to his unit, which was at the ranges for their annual training. When the postings were received, Zafar got the big shock when he learnt that he was posted to 1 Mountain. He locked himself in the room and we believed that he was perhaps crying. We were all rubbing it to him and JD jokingly, that the transport in the form of four sturdy and hardy mules, were waiting for them, to take them to their unit. Zafar got over this rude shock and we all proceeded to our new units. It was an end to our interesting and instructive period of stay at Nowshera. Unlike the Artillery, the officers from the other arms and services went to their units first and then later did their respective courses of their own branches. The induction of officers from the 1st PMA Long Course into their units was both distinctive and a land mark event. Many expectations were associated with them. There was an aura of a new generation of officers who had no links of colonial past, but who were highly motivated, had all volunteered to join the army, imbued with the spirit of the creation of a new Islamic country, and who had been well groomed and well trained for a full period of two years training at the newly raised academy. It was both a test for our performance and a reflection of the institution where we got our basic training for

our new career in the Army. In the hindsight, we can safely say that we did prove equal to the task and measured up to the standards expected of us. In the units we all started getting due attention and respect. The very first mentioning of 1st PMA was viewed with prestigious cult and got us a kick start in our early careers.

Formative Years; Our Grooming as Officers and Leaders

We kept doing our regular courses at home and abroad and made a distinct mark for ourselves. Our career was blossoming. We were carving a name for ourselves and our course.

We had the first martyr of our course rather very early. Captain Muhammad Iqbal Hussain, who was serving in the Zhob scouts, was ambushed on the road to Quetta on 16 April, 1956 and was killed.

It was in this back ground that we kept progressing in our early military career. It is gratifying that we maintained our own standards, kept our moorings right, and most of us tried to always act and behave of what was expected and required of us as a gentleman and an officer. This earned us respect and recognition.

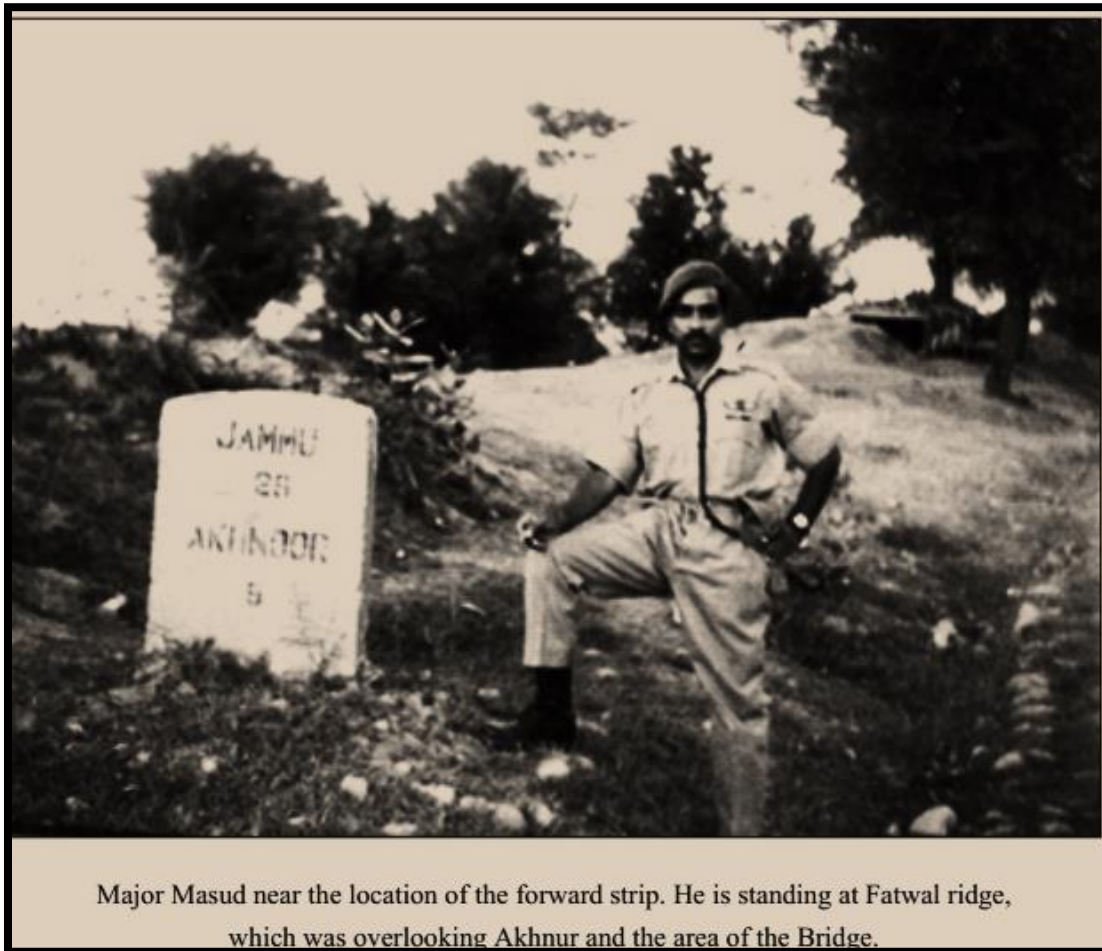
For the Role played by our Course in 1965 War, we could give many examples, but they will be reflected in the individual accounts. For the sake of brevity, we would jump to the time when the events were fast leading us to the days of heightened tensions with India in 1965. Most of us were choosing to be with our units and in the field. Three of our course mates were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Aviation, which was out of turn and accelerated. Zafar who was the first to be promoted, but he proceeded to attend the Staff Course in early 1965. In the war, Lieutenant Colonel N.K. Babar and Lieutenant Colonel M.M. Mahmud were commanding No 3 and No 1 Army Aviation Squadron respectively. Many others of our course also had field duties with their units or at different staff appointments.

We may not dwell at any length on the details of the events of 1965 War, as enough has been written on both sides to give out their versions. Brig Mahmud has also given a very elaborate and detailed account of this war in his book, "My Reflections in Passion."

The book had been well acknowledged and appreciated by the knowledgeable readers. But Mahmud maintains with a lot of confidence that the account that he has covered in his book of this conflict is most realistic, authentic and accurate, as compared to all others that he has read. The whole idea of this war was floated by Major General (Later Lieutenant General) Akhtar Hussain Malik, as he strongly maintained that the comparative strength of the Armed Forces of the two countries, was relatively in favour of Pakistan for a quick and brief offensive, to achieve limited objectives. In pursuit of that his main objective was Capture of Akhnur. For this he first solicited the approval of Mr. Bhutto, who in turn convinced President Ayub Khan, of its strong chances of accomplishment of the goals being enunciated. It was envisaged that if we do not avail this opportunity, India will gain enough Military strength, and that it may not be possible for us to secure the freedom of Kashmiri people through any Military Action. Pakistan was committed to their cause of freedom and it the best time and opportunity for it.

On 1st September, 1965, when Operation Grand Slam was launched under the Command of Major General Akhtar Hussain Malik, he in his plan of attack and the orders given by him, clearly stated the aim of Capture of Akhnur by D+3 Day. This was realistic and feasible; with the lightning speed at which the attack was being planned. The disparity of the troop's strengths, of the opposing forces in the Sector, was a clear pointer for that. Why we failed to achieve this objective will remain a mystery! The first mistake was the Change of Command on 2nd September, as there were no plausible reasons to do that! And the second mistake was that

despite the delays due to this Change of Command, our troops had still reached within 2-3 Miles of Akhnur Bridge by the evening of 5th September. Sensing a major debacle, the Indians had vacated the entire area of our side of the Bridge at Akhnur, and had withdrawn across the River Chenab; only beckoning our troops to move forward and Capture the Bridge. No one has any explanation for not doing that! The best guess could be, that perhaps American's had told Ayub Khan not to do so, and that probably was the primary reason for the Change of Command on 2nd September. In so doing, he may have given Confidential Instructions to Major General (Later General) Yahya Khan to that effect.



Regardless of that, even when the Indians launched their offensive across the International Frontiers; a situation for the total defeat of the enemy troops in the Sialkot Sector, had been created through resolute defense of own troops, to accomplish that. The main Indian Offensive, comprising of their pride 1 Armoured Division and supported by Three Infantry Divisions, was launched on 15th September towards Chawinda. By the morning of 17th September, own troops had inflicted such heavy losses to them that they were clamoring on their Armored Division net; tanks to withdraw individually taking cover in sugar cane crops. They abandoned many a tanks in those crops, only to be retrieved after the Cease Fire. What better opportunity could we have for Our Counter Attack, to accomplish the complete destruction of their forces in the area, is not hard to imagine. 6th Armoured Division of our Army, along with the other troops under their command, were actively engaged frontally and had cleared all the area beyond the railway line to Sialkot and were forcing the Indians to retreat. In reserve, we had the Counter Attack Force of one Armoured Division supported by an Infantry Division, all ready and prepared to be launched. All the Plans for the launching of the Operation "Wind Up", had been prepared. It was a typical sand model operation. We needed to go along the left bank

of Deg Nullah and decide to cut the enemy troops at any point of our choosing. Despite the clamoring of the troops, we kept delaying it from 18th September onwards for no plausible reason! The Cease Fire was accepted without accomplishing the task that we had set for ourselves. Again an opportunity was missed, and we had no justification for that. Lieutenant General Akhtar Hussain Malik in a letter addressed to his brother Brigadier Abdul Ali Malik, from Ankara explains his frustrations. Same is reproduced below to make your judgment: -

Pakistan's Permanent Military Deputy
Embassy of Pakistan
ANKARA

22.11.67

My Dear Brother,

I hope you and the family are very well. Thank you for your letter of 14 Oct 67. The answers to your questions are as follows:-

- a. The defacto command changed the very first day of ops after the fall of Chamb when Azmat Hayat broke off wireless communications with me. I personally tried to find his HQ by chopper and failed. In late afternoon I sent Gulzar and Vahid, my M.P. Officers, to try and locate him but they too failed. The next day I tore into him, and he sheepishly and nervously informed me that he, "was Yahya's Brigadier". I had no doubt left that Yahya had reached him the previous day and instructed him not to take further orders from me, while the formal change in command had yet to take place. This was a betrayal of many dimensions.
- b. I reasoned and then pleaded with Yahya that if it was credit he was looking for, he should take the overall command but let me go up to Akhnur as his subordinate, but he refused. He went a step further and even changed the plans. He kept banging his head against Troti, letting the Indians fall back to Akhnur. We lost the initiative on the very first day of the war and never recovered it. Eventually, it was the desperate stand at Chawinda that prevented the Indians from cutting through.
- c. At no time was I assigned any reason for being removed from command by Ayub, Musa and Yahya. They were all sheepish at best. I think the reasons will be given only when I am no more.
- d. Not informing pro-Pak Kashmiri elements before launching Gibraltar was a command decision and it was mine. The aim of the op was to defreeze the Kashmir issue, raise it from its moribund state, and bring it to the notice of the world. To achieve this aim the first phase of the op was vital i.e. to effect undetected infiltration of thousands across the CFL. I was not willing to compromise this in any event. And the whole op could be made stillborn by just one double agent.
- e. Haji Pir did not cause me much anxiety. Because of the impending Grand Slam Indian concentration in Haji Pir could only help us, after Akhnur they would have to pull out troops from there to counter the new threats and surrender their gains, and may be more, in the process. Actually it was only after the fall of Akhnur that we would have encashed the full value of Gibraltar, but that was not to be!

- f. Bhutto kept insisting that his sources has assured him that India would not attack if we did not violate the international border. I, however, was certain that Gibraltar would lead to war and told GHQ so. I needed no op intelligence to come to this conclusion. It was imple commonsense. If I got you by the throat it would silly for me to expect that you will kiss me for it. Because I was certain that war would follow, my first choice of objective for Grand Slam was Jammu. From there we could have exploited our success either towards Samba or Kashmir proper as the situation demanded. In any case whether it was Jammu or Akhnur, if we had taken the objective, I don't see how the Indians could have attacked Sialkot before clearing out either of these towns.
- g. I have given serious consideration to writing a book, but given up the idea. The book would be the truth. And truth and the popular reaction to it would be good for my ego. But in the long run it would be an unpatriotic act. It will destroy the morale of the army, lower its prestige among the people, be banned in Pakistan, and become a textbook for the Indians. I have little doubt that the Indians will ever forgive us the slight of 65 and will avenge it at the first oportunity. I am certain they will hit us in E. Pak and we will need all we have to save the situation. The first day of Grand Slam will be fateful in many ways. The worst has still to come and we have to prepare for it. The book is therefore out.

I hope this has given you the gist of what you needed to know. And yes, Ayub was fully involved in the enterprise. As a matter of fact it was his idea. And it was he who ordered me to by-pass Musa while Gibraltar etc were being planned. I was dealing more with him and Sher Bahadur than with the C-in-C. It is tragic that despite having a good military mind, the F.M's heart was prone to give way. The bigger tragedy is that in this instance it gave away before the eruption of a crisis. Or were they already celebraating a final victory!

In case you need more exccact description of events, I will need war diaries and maps, which you could send me through the diplomatic bag.

Please remember me to all the family.

Yusuf Ali Khan
Ayub Khan

To crown this all, General Ayub Khan had given this Army the top Command structure of all incompetent Generals. General Musa Khan, Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana, Major General Nasir, Brig (Later Lt Gen) Hameed and Brig (Later Lt Gen) Niazi, just to name a few, were so pathetic and deplorable that one cannot find words to describe them. Ayub had perched them on top only to secure his own future. Major General Yahya Khan, while discussing this anomaly with Mahmud said, "I agree with you. We have failed to give this Army the General Ship that it deserves."

And yet when he took over as the Commander-in-Chief and the President of Pakistan, he promoted some of them whom he was abusing during the War. Perhaps we were condemned to live with this curse.

Re- building the Army...

The catastrophe of East Pakistan was in the making since the time of General Ayub Khan. But yet Yahya mishandled it completely. Lt Gen Akhtar Malik in his letter referred to above, had clearly warned about the impending threat. He had written, "*I have little doubt that the Indians will ever forgive the slight of 65 and will avenge it at the first opportunity.*" They made all the preparations, while we were whiling away our time idly. Most of us again felt that we were let down by higher command. We had sensed that it was an unequal match; essentially because of the subversive elements operating in East Pakistan who were activated and

supported by India. Our generation could read the Hindu mindset better than most others. The only possible defense was to delay the inevitable, by holding a defensive box position around Dacca. But the naïve mind of Lt Gen Niazi, could not possibly perceive it. We were forced to surrender on 16 December, 1971. It was shameful, but it was a totally lopsided match. An Indian Author gloatfully boasted, "Never in the History of Warfare, has so much been achieved by so few, in such a short time." A Foreign Journalist gave a very befitting response to silence the mouth of gleeful temerity of the Indian mind by saying, "Given the same circumstances, no other Army in the World would have done worse than that." It was apt and befitting. It sums it all. We hope we have learnt our lessons. Some elements in the higher command just kept circulating false promises that a lot of help is coming. That never materialized and we cut a very sorry figure.

The Army had to be re-built and we had to work for the integration and unity of the rest of Pakistan. In this crucial period, again our course played a very significant role. Many examples could be quoted to illustrate the point. But here we would consider it suffice to only highlight some of the outstanding contributions made; which stand out unique and have won recognition and acknowledgement at National level.

After the creation of Bangladesh, with the East Pakistani officers deciding to opt to go back, a vacuum was created in the Civil Services. Brigadier Mian Fazl-ur-Rahim met with a jeep accident in 1973, he was hospitalized for two months and the medical category was downgraded. Since he realized that he could not get any further promotion, he got inducted in the Federal Civil Service through qualifying in the "Lateral Entry" Examination. He was selected in the Grade 20 and posted as a joint Secretary in 1975. He retired as Additional Secretary on 31 March, 1986, after attaining the age of superannuation. Brigadier Muzaffar Khan Malik and Lieutenant Colonel Saeed Malik too were selected for assignments in the Civil Services. Muzaffar came in the main stream as a Federal Secretary in the Ministry of Interior and Saeed Malik was selected for Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) due to his highly rated technical qualifications and background. All of them left a very indelible mark in the field of their new service and career. Where they all stood out was in their competent handling of all assignments and above all for their integrity.

Muzaffar was later posted as Chief Secretary, Punjab; where he excelled and gave an exemplary performance as an Administrator. When General Zia staged his Coup, Muzaffar was relieved from his appointment. Zia was pressing him to provide all the evidence of rigging against Bhutto. Though Muzaffar was a close friend of Zia, but he showed an exemplary character and was not willing to give any false statements to appease him. Stating the truth as he knew, he said, "Bhutto gave no orders for rigging and equally I gave no instructions to do that. Some normal rigging did take place, but it so happens in all the elections. Do not make any unjustifiable charge of rigging to justify your Martial Law." That was some character, and it is the Hall Mark of our Course. Zia got the sense and took no action against him. Instead he posted him as Ambassador to Greece. He was suffering from the Cancer of the Prostate Glands, and when Benazir came to Power in 1982, she posted him to Greece as an Ambassador for a second tenure. Some times after his return from Greece, he died of Cancer. He left behind one adopted daughter by the name of Ayesha. The only property he left behind was an inherited house in Main Gulberg, Lahore. It just speaks for his Honesty and his Integrity! May he live in peace in heavenly abode? The major test for our Army career came in the 1965 war, and it is commendable that we proved our worth in the battlefield test. All those of our course who had the chance to take part in this war, did so with distinction. Some details of their performance will be covered under the names of the personal account of the officers of our course. But we can take great pride, that we had the unique distinction of earning one Nishan-i-Haider and two Sitara-i-Juraat in this war.

CHAPTER 10

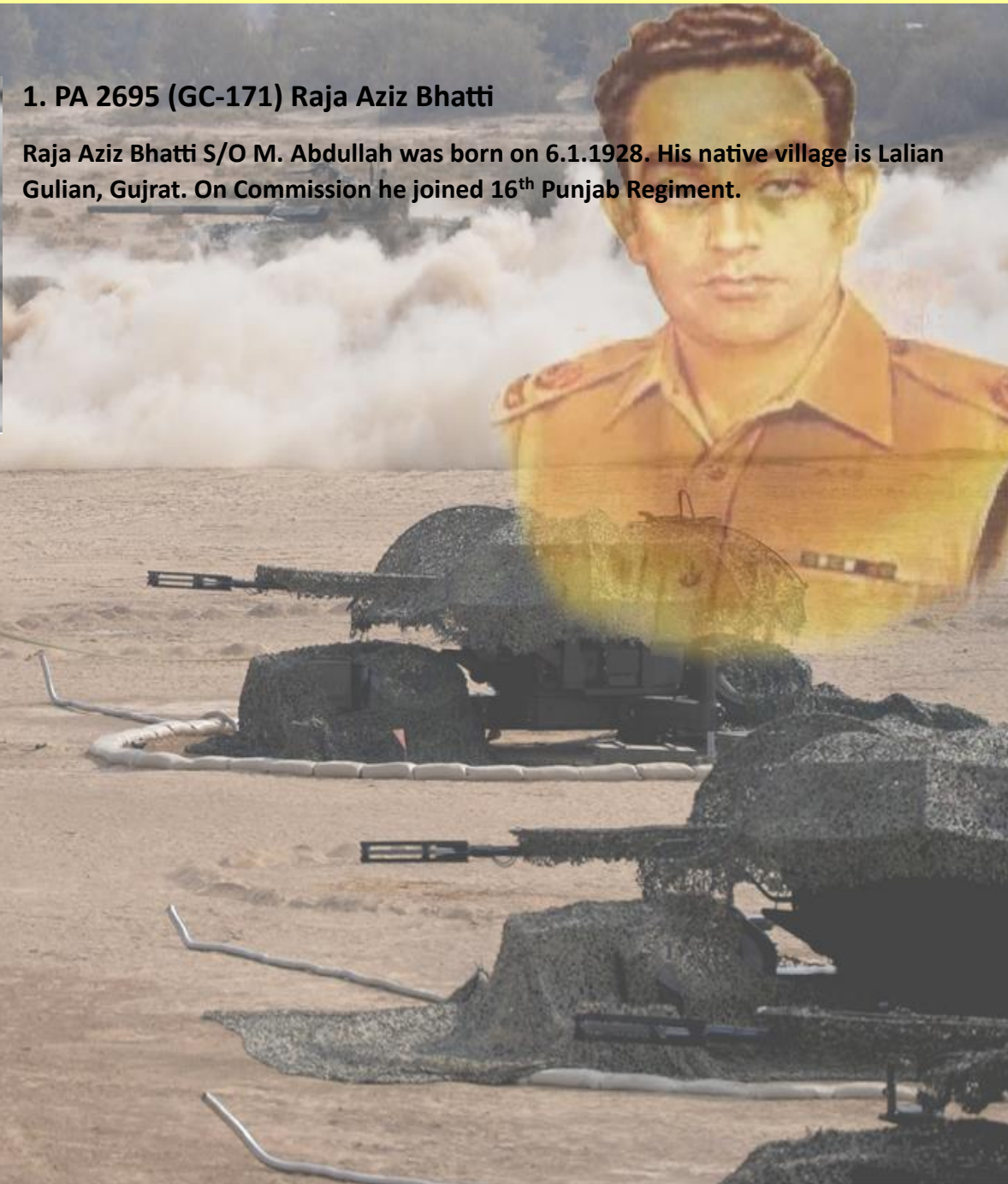
WRITE UP's OF THE GRAGUATES OF FIRST PMA LONG COURSE

Eighty Cadets were selected for the 1st PMA Long Course. Out these 62 Passed out on 4th February, 1950. A brief account is given in respect of some of those whose families have sent us the write up as requested. We hope that all the other families of our deceased Colleagues, who have not sent us the brief of their loved one so far, will do so soon. At the end, we have given out the circumstances in which the 18 Cadets who did not pass out with the rest of the Course.



1. PA 2695 (GC-171) Raja Aziz Bhatti

Raja Aziz Bhatti S/O M. Abdullah was born on 6.1.1928. His native village is Lalian Gulian, Gujrat. On Commission he joined 16th Punjab Regiment.



Early Life

Raja Aziz Ahmed Bhatti was born in British Hong Kong on 6 August 1928 into a Punjabi Rajput family. His family hailed from a small village about 110 miles away from the Gujrat District of the Punjab in India. They had immigrated to British Hong Kong after his father and two uncles found employment in the Hong Kong Police Force. His father, Mohammad Abdullah Bhatti, was an alumnus of the Queen's College in Hong Kong who later served as an Inspector in the Hong Kong Police Force. Aziz Bhatti was educated in Hong Kong where he completed his matriculation and attended the Queen's College but his education was halted due to the Japanese invasion and occupation of Hong Kong in 1941. He was drafted into the Imperial Japanese Navy in 1944, first serving at the rank of the seaman recruit and as the tower watchman (observation post) before being directed to attend the officer school offered by the Imperial Japanese Navy due to his educational qualifications. However, in December 1945, the Bhatti family relocated to India, and Aziz Bhatti enlisted to join the Royal Indian Air Force as an airman in June 1946. After the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, Bhatti joined the Pakistan Air Force and was promoted as Corporal (Cpl.). He continued to serve in the Air Force until 1948 in this rank. Cpl. Bhatti was a prospective candidate to join the Air Force Academy in Risalpur and was known to be amongst the brightest members of the Air Force in its early years.

On 21 January 1948, Bhatti submitted an application to the Ministry of Defense (MOD), asking to be transferred to the Pakistan Army, which was approved and Bhatti was directed to attend the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul in 1948. There, he distinguished himself in studies and athletics among his classmates, and passed out from the academy at the top of his class, in the class of the first PMA Long Course, in 1950. He was awarded the Sword of Honor and the Norman Gold Medallion by the Graduating Ceremony's chief guest, Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. He was commissioned as the 2nd Lt. in the 4th battalion of the 16th Punjab Regiment (4/16th Punjab Regiment). He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1951 and to captain in 1953.

In 1956, Aziz was sent to Canada to attend the staff course at the Canadian Army Command and Staff College where he remained until graduation from strategic studies courses in 1960. Upon returning to Pakistan, Major Aziz was posted as a General Staff Officer II (GSO II) until 1962. He was later taken in the faculty of the School of Infantry and Tactics in Quetta, in which he remained until 1964.

Battle of Burki

In May 1965, he was posted to 17th Punjab Regiment. He took over the Command of a Company in the Battalion which was deployed at the Lahore Sector. Maj. Bhatti was initially deployed on the forward positions of the BRB Canal near the Burki area that falls in the vicinity of the Lahore District in Pakistan-side Punjab.

The actual Battle engagement with the Indian Army took place between 7–10 Septembers, when the Indian Army began its push for capturing Burki, with a view to entering Lahore. Heavy Artillery and Tank fire was brought down on the positions held by Major Aziz's Company to soften the Target. Despite all their efforts, Indian Army could not succeed in capturing Burki. The outnumbered company under Major Bhatti held the Indian Forces at bay. They even forced the Indian Army to engage with them in hand-to-hand combat during the night of the 7/8 September 1965. And the fighting continued till the next three days. Despite Indian Army having vast numerical superiority, they could not make any headway. Although the defense of the Burki sector through the BRB Canal had less importance in the views of military strategists working at the Army GHQ in Rawalpindi, but still its defense was fierce and tenacious, and the Indian Army had to halt its plans of capturing Lahore, and focus on capturing Burki and the bridge connecting the BRB Canal. Major Bhatti and his teams were left alone and they kept fighting bravely and defied all the Indian Attacks.

Bhatti declined an offer to take leave and spend time with his family in Lahore. He told the sergeant that brought the message, "Tell them not to recall me. I don't want to go back. I will shed the last drop of my blood in the defense of my dear homeland." Major Bhatti moved towards building up the trenches and positioned himself towards forward and a higher observation location to view enemy movements, where he would often stand for a better view to direct Artillery fire.

Bhatti embraced martyrdom on 10 September 1965. He stood up to observe enemy positions and direct artillery fire, despite warnings to take cover, and was killed by an armour shell hitting him directly. Major Bhatti was 37 years old at the time of his death.

Maj. Aziz Bhatti was buried in the courtyard of his ancestral home at Ladian, a small village near Gujrat, Punjab in Pakistan. The Federal Government accepted the recommendations for the Award of Nishan-e-Haider and announced to posthumously award the Nishan-e-Haider for his gallantry and actions of valor during the defense of the Burki.

Later the federal government funded to build the marble tombstone at his ancestral home in 1967. The Presidential Nishan-e-Haider citation on his grave is written in Urdu and is actually a poem; and it reads with translation as:

Rouge on the face of shahadat, pride of the country and the nation are these fearless warriors, a strike of their sword wipes out the mightiest of foes this one who came out victorious in the struggle for the cause of ALLAH is lying here in the delight of the afterlife dream. Major Bhatti fought valiantly on Lahore Front, and is posthumously presented with the Nishan-e-Haider.

It was Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, who lived up to his reputation of the winner of Sword of Honour from PMA and gave an outstanding performance of personal bravery, his commitment to the cause of the Army, and ranks outstanding in his efforts. He fulfilled the pledge that we all gave; to be prepared to lay down our lives for the defense and the cause of the country. He saw action in the Lahore Sector from the start of the war, and it was on 10 September, 1965 that he embraced "Shaadad" while continuously fighting and holding the enemy for five days. His company was assigned a defensive position at the BRBL Canal, near Burki. While his two platoons were on the home bank, his third platoon was on the far bank. He set a personal example of leading his troops from the front and decided to be with the forward platoon. With his handful of men, he kept repulsing the repeated attacks by enemy one Brigade, supported with tanks and the full weight of the Divisional Artillery. He exhorted his troops to continue the fight with all bravery and determination. They repulsed six major attacks of the enemy coming in waves with fresh troop's every time. When he arrived on the home bank, he had to undertake another operation to throw out the enemy which had managed to establish a foot hold there. Even till the end, he gave an exemplary performance of bravery and kept directing the guns in their fire on the enemy tanks and infantry, which were directly threatening his position. Regardless, of his personal safety he kept himself exposed to seek a better and clear view of his targets.

He was hit by direct fire of the AP shell of the tank gun. He embraced "SHAADAT" on the spot. For this unique and exemplary display of personal bravery, he had the singular honor of being the only soldier to earn the award of Nishan-i-Haider in 1965 War. His was a romantic career. He started it by winning both the Sword of Honor and the Norman Gold Medal and ended it on the highest note of earning for himself the Nishan-i-Haider. He did our course proud.



***Shaheed's widow receiving
Nishan-E-Haider from
Field Martial Muhammad Ayub Khan***



***Place on the banks of BRB Canal
where he embraced martyrdom***



Memorial at Barki A memorial to Major Aziz Bhatti was built in 2019 at the site where he was killed defending against an Indian attack on 10 September 1965. The memorial is located approximately 500 meters north of the Barki Road/BRB Canal checkpoint on the west side of BRB Canal. The citation reads as follows in English (with editorial additions):

Major Raja Aziz Bhatti known as "Muhafiz-e-Lahore (Defender of Lahore)" received Pakistan's highest award for his valor. He was born in Hong Kong in a Muslim Rajput family (belongs to Gujrat) in 1928. He got commissioned in the Pakistan Army in 1950 (17 Punjab Regiment). Major Aziz Bhatti was posted to Barki sector Lahore, during Indo-Pak war 1965. Being a Company Commander, he moved his Platoon forward to this bank of BRBLC [BRB Canal] under constant fire of enemy tanks and artillery. He resisted for five days and nights in defending this Pakistani outpost on the strategic BRBLC without rest. On 6 September 1965, he left his company Headquarters and moved to his forward Platoon and stayed with them under incessant artillery & tank attacks. He positioned himself in this elevated place to watch every move of the enemy. This point was vulnerable to enemy tank & artillery fire. After five days of continuous fighting on the front, he was offered to be relieved for rest but he refused the offer of him being relieved and said "I do not want to go back, I will shed the last drop of my blood in the defense of my dear homeland." On 10 September 1965, Major Aziz Bhatti was hit by enemy tank shell in the chest while observing the enemy move from this elevated place. He was awarded with highest Gallantry award of Nishan-e-Haider for [as a result of his] supreme act of bravery.

جب تک نہ جلیں دیپ شہیدوں کے لہو سے
چراغاًں نہیں ہوتا کہتے ہیں کہ جنت میں



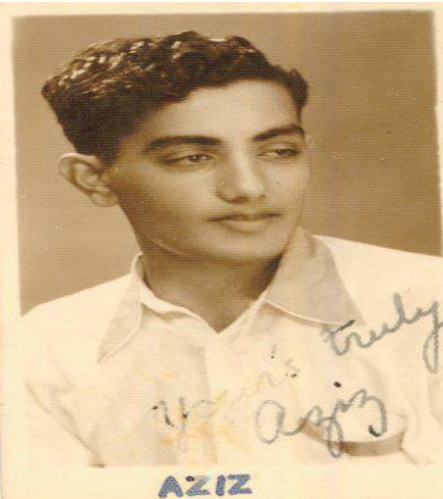
The grave of Raja Aziz Bhatti, in his village Ladian

In 1968, a paintings exhibition was inaugurated in Lahore, Punjab in Pakistan depicting Pakistan's war heroes including the first sketched portrait of Major Aziz Bhatti In 1997. He was the subject of a popular and critically acclaimed biographical war drama telefilm, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, produced by the ISPR and directed by Salim Tahir of the PTV.

It was reported in media that former Pakistan Army's General, Raheel Sharif who was the former Chief of Army Staff and Major Shabbir Sharif, another recipient of Nishan-e-Haider of Pakistan Army, are the nephews of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti.

His grandson Babar Bhatti, a Canada-based businessman, is married to the famous supermodel-turned-actress Iman Ali.

Some Glimpses of Childhood and Early Life



*Raja Aziz Bhatti's picture
with his autograph*



*Last of the memorable pictures of Raja
Aziz Bhatti*



*Raja Aziz Bhatti in a
formal dress*

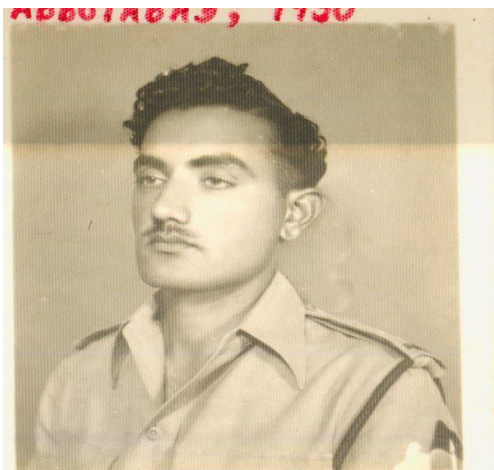
Some glimpses of his short Army life



*Major Aziz Bhatti, giving a Guard of Honour
to President Ayub Khan*

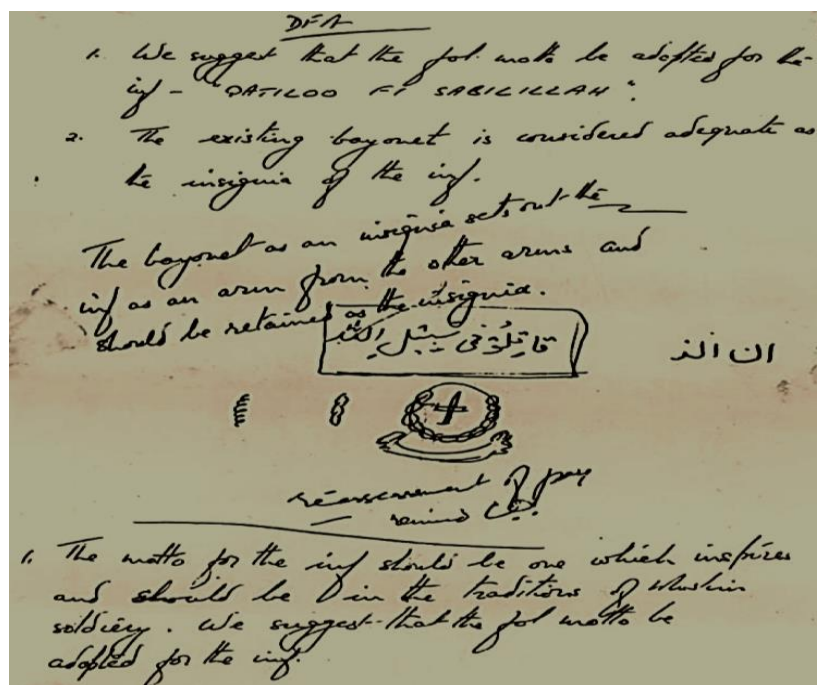
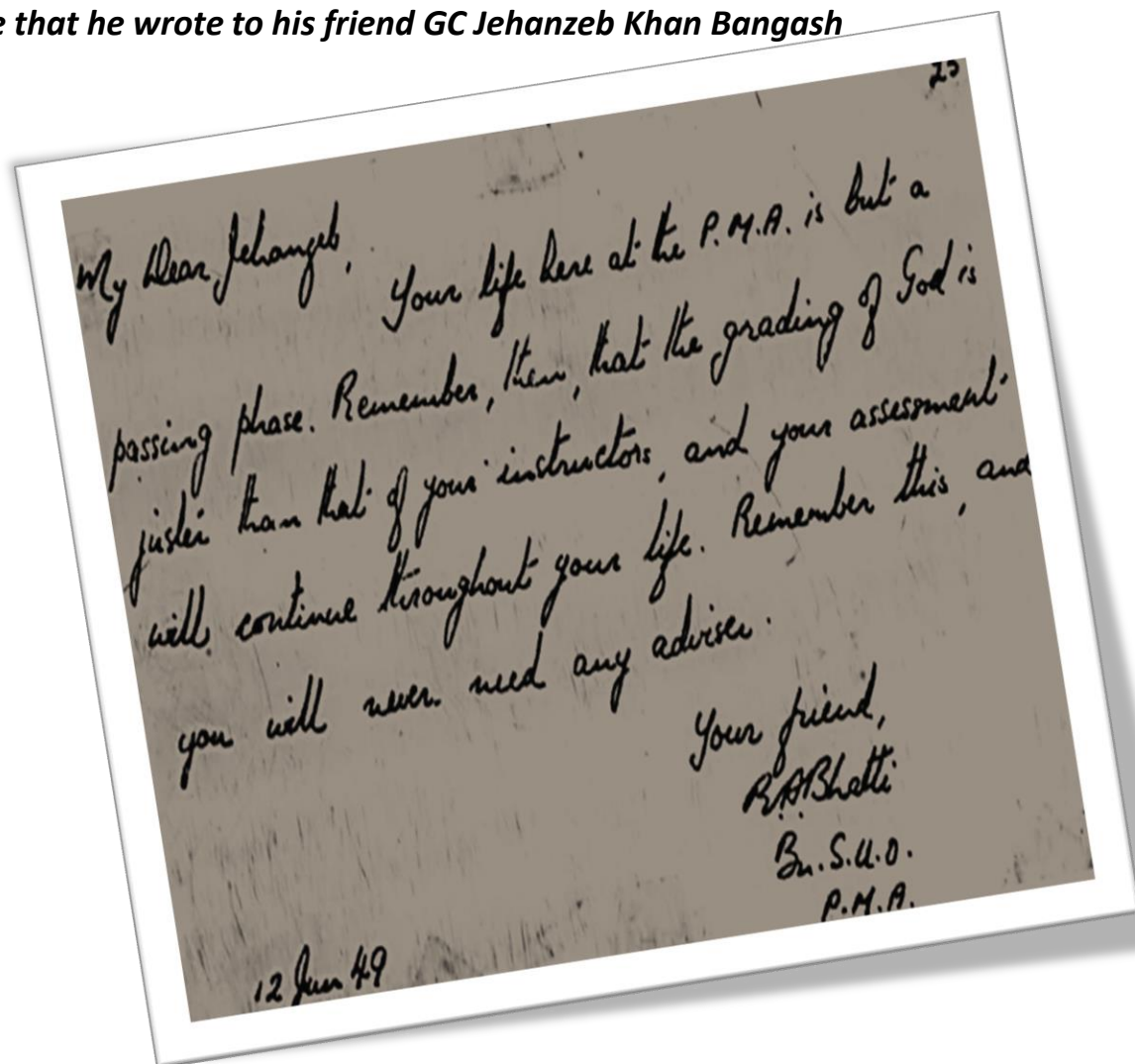


*At the BRB Canal with some of his
Colleagues*



*2nd/Lieutenant Aziz Bhatti
on Graduation*

A note that he wrote to his friend GC Jehanzeb Khan Bangash



Proposed layout for the insignia of the Infantry By Major Raja Aziz Bhatti

Awards and Decorations

Nishan-e-Haider

(Emblem of the Lion)

1965 War

Posthumously



Sitara-e-Harb
1965 War

(War Star 1965)

Posthumously



Tamgha-e-Jang
1965 War

(War Medal 1965)



Pakistan Tamgha
(Pakistan Medal)

1947



Tamgha-e-Jamhuria

*(Republic
(Commemoration
Medal)*

1956



2. PA 2696 (GC-192) Luqman Mahmud

Luqman Mahmud S/O Usman Ali Khan

He was born on 8.7.1929.

His address in Pakistan was 30, The Mall, Peshawar.

He joined 13th F.F. Regiment.



3. PA 2697 (GC-182) Lt Col Malik Mohammad Sharif

Malik Mohammad Sharif S/O Malik Sultan Sharif

He was born on 15.12.1925.

He belonged to Angha Go Tehsill, Khusab, Shahpur.

He joined 15th Punjab Regiment.



Lt Col Malik Mohammad Sharif. He was Military Secretary to Nawab of Kalabagh



4. PA 2698 (GC-188) Lt Col Muhammad Zafar Khan

Mohammad Zafar Khan S/O K.B. Mohammad Safdar Khan was born on 5.11.1929.

His place of Residence was 2, Residency Road, Peshawar.

He joined Royal Pakistan Artillery. His first unit was 1 Mountain Regiment.

He later opted for Air O.P. He joined No 1 Air O.P. Flight in 1952, where after his qualification as a pilot, he became one of the members of the small Air O.P. Family

He was selected to be the Captain of the new U8 Aircraft inducted for the use of the C-in-C. He went for the training to USA, and on return remained in that role till his promotion as Lt Col. He got accelerated promotion, and

was the first officer from our Course to be promoted as Lieutenant Colonel when he took over the Command of 1 Army Aviation Squadron in 1n 1964. In 1965 he went to attend the 1965 Staff College Course at Quetta. When the Cease Fire Agreement was reached, he was very critical of this decision. He was summoned by the Director Military Intelligence, Brig Irshad Ahmad, and as he entered his office, he in a loud and threatening voice was asking him as to what he thought about himself. In a cool and calm reaction, but in a firm and clear tone, he told him that he had no business shouting at him. He asked him as to what he wants? To this the DMI said, "Did you say that Cease Fire was a wrong decision?" To this Zafar replied that, "Yes I did say this." The DMI then asked him if he was prepared to state this in writing. Zafar again answered in the affirmative. Brig Irshad immediately took out a piece of paper and placed it on the table before him. He without any hesitation, wrote that in his opinion Cease Fire was a wrong decision, signed and handed it over to the DMI. He went rushing with it to the office of the C-in-C, and most probably told him that he has confessed. Soon he returned and told Zafar that he has been retired from the ARMY. In a very composed reaction, he told him, "Thank You" and walked out of his office with dignity and honour. This was the typical demeanour of our Course. Later many others like Abdullah Malik, Nasir Ullah Babar and many others displayed this honorable and correct attitude. It became the Hall Mark of our Course.

When Major General Yahya Khan learnt about it, he summoned Mahmud to Chamb where he was located. As he approached his caravan, he told him, "Bacho Darr Gai Ho". Mahmud's prompt reply was that he has no reason to be afraid. General Yahya further told him, "Before you say anything, let me tell you that when I heard about your friend Zafar's case, I called General Musa and told him that if you retire such officers then who is going to fight this war for you," He also told Mahmud, "I know your views are much stronger than him. But I will not give up. I will keep putting pressure on the higher command to desist from such policies." This had salutary effect on General Musa and there were no further recriminations of those officers who were forcefully condemning the decision of Cease Fire. General Musa also got inclined to call Zafar back in the Army, but he was not interested.

Zafar had no regrets. Air Marshal Asghar Khan immediately gave him a job in Civil Aviation. He later joined a British Firm International Computers Limited, and remained its head for many years. He later had many other fruitful business adventures and came in for a lot of money.

Currently he is a major shareholder of an explosive manufacturing company Biafo which has its Head Quarters located at Islamabad and the premises located at Hattar Complex. He is living a lonely life in London and to create a good company, he has a well-stocked bar in his office, where he serves drinks on the house, and thus have a lot of people attracted to it and to keep him company.

It is believed that he plans to come back to Pakistan and spend the rest of his life with his family.



5. PA 2699 (GC-173) Brig Faqir Muhammad

Faqir Mohammad Khan S/O Captain Ajan Khan was born on 2.2.1928. He belonged to Village Kalabat, Mardan. On Commissioning he Joined Royal Pakistan Artillery.



6. PA 2700 (GC_242) LT Col Muhammad Akram

Mohammad Akram S/O Sarfraz Khan was born on 5.2.1929. He belonged to Village Palo Dheri Gujrat, Mardan. On Commissioning he joined 14th Punjab Regiment.



7. PA 2701 (GC-161) Maj Gul Hayat

Gul Hayat S/O Risaldar Khan was born on 29.1.1928. He belonged to Village Hadali, Shahpur. On Commissioning he joined 6th Punjab Regiment.



8. PA 2702 (GC-168) Maj Gen Abdullah Khan Malik

Abdullah Khan Malik S/O Malik Ata Ullah Khan was born on 17.4.1926. His Residence was 9/150 Chachi Mohallah, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined 4th Punjab Regiment.



Lt Col Abdullah Khan Malik

He was born on 17 April 1926 in Jhelum, where his father was a Tehsildar. His initial schooling was in different schools, where ever his father was posted. From class 7, he joined Islamia High School Murree Road, Rawalpindi, from where he did his matriculation in 1942. Later he got admitted in Gordon College, Rawalpindi, from where he was studying to do his B.Sc. In the meantime, he got selected for the 1st PMA, Long Course and joined PMA, Kakul in 1948.

Another great name that we would like to remember, honor and recognize is Major General Abdullah Khan Malik. Starting with the reputation of a knock out boxer from PMA, he rose to the key appointment of Chief of the General Staff at General Head Quarters, Rawalpindi. His selection as CGS, though could not be called unexpected but had a certain mystery about it.

Many people maintain that he was Mr. Bhutto's man and that he was brought in as a check on General Zia-ul-Haq at the time of his promotion to the position of Chief of the Army Staff. This is not correct. To throw light on this, a brief account may be given as to how General Zia reached that decision. It started from the night when Major General N.K.Babar, who was GOC 14 Division Okara, came to stay with Brigadier (Retd.) Mian Mahmud at Rawalpindi, just before the announcement of General Zia as the new Army Chief. The next morning, he asked him to accompany him to the house of Brigadier Sagheer Hussain, who was Military Secretary to the President of Pakistan. While on the way, Babar told Mahmud, that this evening an announcement will be made for the appointment of General Zia-ul-Haq, as the new Chief of the Army Staff. He further told him that he is being retired from the Army and is to take over as the Governor, North Western Frontier Province. The news of his abrupt and early end of Army career was not too good and rather disappointing, but the satisfaction was that he was being given a very important assignment for which he was most suited and had immense experience for it. On arrival at the house of Brig Sagheer, they were received by him, and invited in. General Zia was also there, as he was his guest. Both Babar and Mahmud congratulated him for his promotion and appointment to this key position in the Army. The discursion soon came around as

to who should be the new Chief of the General Staff. General Zia told Babar that he would have liked to have him as his CGS, but due to his retirement from the Army his choice was not available to him. It was Babar who then suggested the name of Major General Abdullah Malik to him. General Zia, immediately responded that last night Sagheer too was strongly recommending his name to him. He readily agreed to this choice and that is how Major General Abdullah Khan Malik arrived in GHQ as the new CGS.

We were all thrilled at this news and felt a distinct sense of elation that 1st PMA was now making its mark at both the highest positions in the Army and the civil. They did the course proud. The day Abdullah arrived at GHQ, Major General Safdar Butt called Mahmud to accompany him to GHQ and to meet with him and congratulate him on his posting to such important position. As we entered the office of CGS, Safdar sat down on the chair and put his feet resting on the table of CGS's office. He remarked that it was his ambition and desire for a long time that he should arrive and sit in the office of the CGS, and sit there in that casual manner. He said so because the visits of all of us to this august office in the past had been formal and the office held a sense of awe and authority about it. Abdullah just smiled. At this Safdar took out a cigar and as he was about to light it, Abdullah remarked that we were most welcomed to his office and that we should feel at home and relax the way we want t; but then with his both hands folded, he begged us not to smoke in his office as he was most allergic to smoking. But it was the will of God and the irony, that out of all of us only he died of lung cancer later.

The Political Turmoil: There is no question that Major General Abdullak Malik was the distinct choice and most ably qualified for this office. He had earlier served in General Headquarters as the Director Military Intelligence. He adjusted to this position with ease and with confidence.

We may not comment on his performance as the Chief of the General Staff, as it was without any controversy or blemish, and held in professional acumen which matched up to the dignity of this office. But what may be dwelled at is the sober, mature, fiercely independent, thoughtful and visionary approach that he carried and frankly expressed in the turbulent political field. The agitation against Mr. Bhutto's government was at its peak. The chants of rigging were all over and the Army was being involved to handle and control the situation. During this period, Mr. Bhuttto used to frequently call the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of the General Staff for meetings to discuss and review the situation. It was in one of those meetings that Mr. Bhutto told General Zia, *"I am a politician and I can only work for a political solution. The military solution is not my option. This is for you people to consider."*

It seemed that it registered in General Zia's mind. He soon afterwards called a meeting of the Corps Commanders at GHQ. The meeting started off with brief introductory remarks of the COAS to the effect that the political situation seems to be fast deteriorating and that the Army should look and examine all avenues and options open. With these preliminary remarks, the meeting was thrown open for the discussion and the comments of all those present for the conference. All the seven Corps Commanders and the Chief of General Staff were the participants. The discussion was started off by Lieutenant General Faiz Ali Chistie, who typical to his style and disposition, was thumping the table and very vociferously giving his views in all gusto, bluntness and with all the emphasis at his command, that the option of the military solution is the only answer and that they should all agree to prepare themselves for this. In turn, all the seven Corps Commanders echoed the same views. At the end General Zia turned around to Major General Abdullah Malik, his CGS, as to what were his views. Describing this a few days later, Abdullah said, "I briefly pondered and thought. It was clear that all the Corps Commanders had been briefed by the COAS, prior to they all coming to the meeting. They were all echoing the views that he wanted. In clearing my mind as to what views should I air, I quickly

considered my two options. The first was to speak in agreement with them all, put them all at ease and have a happy conclusion to this crucial meeting. There was no doubt in my mind that the decisions being arrived at were momentous, with far reaching implications to determine the future of the country and above all may well seal its fate. It took me just a few seconds to make up my mind. I choose the second option. To speak out my mind with all sincerity and in earnest; in what I considered was in the best National Interest and would serve the cause of the Army and the Country. I was not there to give a parrot like repetition of the tutored lesson."

He spoke for about thirty minutes, giving full vent to his sincere feelings with detailed analysis of the situation, the history and the record of the two previous Martial Laws; clearly stating that they hardly solved any problems and in fact left many more in the wake of it, than what they were set to put right. He exhorted them all that this was the turning point of our history. Either we learn lessons from the past or else we would be condemned to repeat those mistakes and blunders. He summed it up by saying, *"I am the CGS of this Army and I want to tell you that this Army is not fit to go to war. Rather than repeating the previous failed exercises of going about with the affairs of running this country, we must concentrate on our own basic profession. Make this Army highly trained and invincible."*

Another important incident worth recalling is the message he received one day from the Prime Ministers Secretariat. Abdullah was sitting in his office when he got a phone call that he was wanted by the Prime Minister. He called the COAS and learnt that he was not in his office. He just presumed that the COAS was already with the Prime Minister and now he is being summoned to join them. On arrival there, he was ushered into the office of the Prime Minister. He was rather surprised to see that he was alone with him and that the COAS was not present there. Mr. Bhutto just started giving his brief description of the situation prevailing in the country. In that context he told him that he was not satisfied with the performance of General Zia-ul-Haq. Abdullah realized that Mr. Bhutto was about to tell him that what actions he was planning to take. He instead preempted him and stopped the Prime Minister in his tracks. He clearly told him, *"Sir, do not temper with the Army. It is too precious an institution."* The message was registered almost immediately and Mr. Bhutto just changed the subject. On his return to GHQ, Major General Abdullah Malik went straight to the office of COAS. He had now arrived back in his office. He briefed him about the circumstances in which he reached the Prime Minister's office and the gist of his discussions there. He avoided the mention of the remarks about the views of the Prime Minister on the role and conduct of COAS; lest it stirs up wrangling in the relationship of the two. This meeting very much surprised General Zia and he was upset as to why Major General Abdullah Malik received those orders direct over his head, and by passing the chain of command. He asked Abdullah as to why he did not clear it with him before going there. Abdullah explained the circumstances and the reasons as to why he went to the Prime Minister Secretariat. On the face of it, he was satisfied and told Abdullah that next time if it happens again, he should convey the message that all instructions must come through proper channels. Abdullah was in full conformity with this and clearly conveyed to the COAS that he will act and reply accordingly.

No other important developments took place and it was time for the Chief of the General Staff to present his annual training program for the Army. At that all the Corps Commanders were also present. And as Abdullah finished his presentation, General Zia suddenly shot a question at him out of the blue. He inquired in Urdu, *"Malik Sahib Ab Apka Military option Kay Mutalliq Kia Khayal Hal."* This abrupt question did surprise Abdullah, but he was fully up to it as he was well informed of all the developments. He kept a very calm composure, but was brief and directly to the point that was addressed to him. He told General Zia in a cool and polite manner, *"Sir, I told you in our last discussion on the subject that I am the CGS of this Army. I want*

to repeat that with a little more elaboration and emphasis that all the intelligence agencies are directly reporting to me. I am fully aware of what is happening." He then went on to give the salient details. He told the gathering that he knew of all the meetings that they had been secretly holding. He surprised them all by giving the date; place and names of whom all participated. They may have been shocked, when he briefly summed up the important points of their discussions held in those meetings. He finally concluded by saying, *"I know that you all have taken the final decision about declaring the Martial Law. If you want my answer, it is still an emphatic NO. It will not serve the interest of the country."* Who all had the courage to say those words so openly and frankly? He carved a name for himself in the history of this country. We should all feel proud of him.

On the night of 4/5 July 1977, the army acted and implemented the decision that had been taken. The CGS was purposefully kept out of this operation. He was awakened by a call from General Zia at about 03:00 hrs in the morning. He told him that the Army had struck and Martial Law had been declared. He then asked him to come over to the operations room. On reaching there he saw General Zia standing there along with Lieutenant General Chistie and some other staff officers. They had a look of satisfaction. In giving his reaction, Major General Abdullah told them that he knew that the operation was scheduled for that night, but he purposely remained quiet and ostensibly out of the picture, as he knew that he was being purposely kept out of this secret process of decision making and the final action.

Sensing that Zia does not trust him, on the first available opportunity that Abdullah got to be alone with the COAS, he told him that since he has no faith in him and does not seem to rely on him; the best option for him is to resign. Holding his right hand next to his heart, Zia told Abdullah, "Malik Sahib, you are my finest officer. I see you going to the top. Since you had a short stay in Command of a division, I am posting you as GOC 17 Division to gain some more experience." Abdullah made the mistake of trusting him and only to be relenting and regretting it later. He finally told him that he cannot represent his Government in any capacity and left the Army. It was a sad culmination to the career of one of our finest officers, who should have had the distinction of being the first PMA trained officer to become the COAS; but fate ordained it to General K.M. Arif to get the honour of becoming the VCOAS, even though he was from OTS and had never commanded a Division or a Corps. But that was the way of working of General Zia.

General Zia then offered him the Ambassadorial appointment and asked him to name the Country, where he would like to go as an Ambassador. But Abdullah refused it. He along with five friends, namely, Mahmud, Safdar, Zafar and Riaz Ahmad, an old school days' friend of Mahmud, set up an Industrial unit at Kabirwala by the name of Effef Industries Limited; meaning five friends.

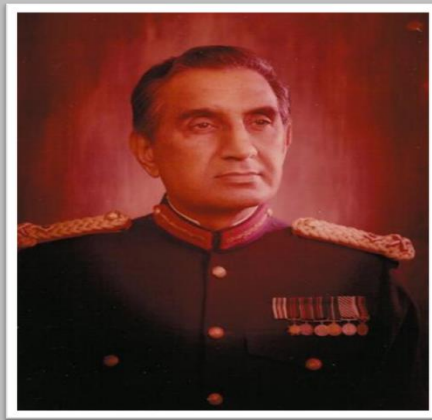
He abruptly got lung cancer and after a brief period of sickness died on 3 June, 1996. But before his death, he had the satisfaction that he moved into his own house in Islamabad on Margalla Road, and also got his only son Kamal Abdullah married and settle down in life.



Major General Abdullah Khan Malik receiving Prime Minister Bhutto at Kharian



Major General Abdullah Malik Visiting one of his Units.



Maj Gen Abdullah Khan Malik



Maj Gen Abdullah Khan Malik receiving a briefing



***Lt Gen Sahbzada M. Yaqub Ali Khan visiting
Maj Gen Abdullah Khan Malik in an exercise area***



Last of the Photograph of Abdullah and Saeeda when alive.



1st PMA Get-together.



9. PA 2703 (GC-280) Lt Gen Ahmad Jamal

Ahmad Jamal S/O Major Khudad Khan was born on 17.7 1928. He was Resident of 30, Lawrence Road, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined 10th Baluch Regiment.

Remembering Lieutenant General Ahmad Jamal Khan: Lieutenant General

Ahmad Jamal too carried out a meritorious service both in the Army and as Chairman Fauji Foundation. His son, Major General Shahid Kamal who followed his father's footsteps to join the Army, has sent a brief on him which is produced as a part of the course History.

Lt Gen Ahmad Jamal Khan hailed from the picturesque village of Matore, in Tehsil Kahuta. He lived a contented and full life, thoroughly enjoyed the profession of arms, loved his family and cherished the company of his friends. He remained most compassionate and humble and displayed a gentle firmness. He was well known for his calmness in the gravest of situations and doing things in his own way.

Gen Jamal did his Senior Cambridge from the famous Royal Indian Military College, Dera Dun where he was also an accomplished sportsman. Incidentally, in the period between mid-1970 to mid-1980, the bulk of the Generals of the Pakistan Army were from the same College. He was commissioned in the 7th Battalion, The

Baluch Regiment from where he was posted as Platoon Commander at the PMA, a tenure which he would remember with a lot of fondness. In 1959, he attended the Staff Course at Staff College, Camberley UK, where his son Maj Shahid Hamid Khan (now Maj Gen) was to follow in his father's footsteps in 1994. He was then posted as Brigade Major of 105 Infantry Brigade at Bahawalpur. His son happened to command the same Brigade at Okara in 2004; what a coincidence. After a tenure as GSO-II at Military Operations Directorate, under Brigadier Gul Hasan (later Chief of Army Staff), Gen Jamal proceeded to command 4th Battalion, The Baluch Regiment, from where he was appointed Military Secretary to the General Musa the Governor of West Pakistan. He also remained the commandant of the Infantry School at Quetta. He then went on to command 4 Azad Kashmir Brigade during the 1971 War in the Chambb Sector, where his school time friend Major General Naseer Ullah Babar was Commander Artillery 23 Division.

In 1973, General Jamal was the first brigadier to attend the Defense Course at the famous Royal College of Defense Studies in the UK (previously attended by Maj Gen's). After the RCDS, he remained an instructor in the National Defense College, Rawalpindi before taking over command of 11 Division at Lahore for a full tenure of four years. Before being promoted Lieutenant General and his appointment as Commander 5 Corps, he remained Adjutant General for one year at the GHQ. After command of 5 Corps for four years, retirement in 1984 brought Gen Jamal's illustrious military service to an end. Apart from his meritorious service in the army, he also displayed a great flair in the administrative and welfare fields. After retirement he headed The Fauji Foundation for seven years till 1992. He spoke Pushto fluently; hence he fostered deep friendship with so many Pathans. He was very fond of reading books, was an avid stamps collector but most of all enjoyed spending time with his family.



10. PA 2704 (GC-183) Brig Iqbal Mehdi Shah

Iqbal Mehdi Shah S/O Lt Col A.S. B. Shah was born on 17.3. 1929. He was Resident of Mohalla Nowbejan, Peshawar. On Commissioning he joined 5 Probyn's Horse.



11. PA 2705 (GC- 200) Maj Yusuf Ali

Yousaf Ali S/O Sheikh Iqbal Ali was born on 16.6.1928. He came from India, where he was a Resident of Bhopal House Ghasyarumanoi, Lucknow. On Commissioning he joined 10th Baluch Regiment.

GC-200 Yusuf Ali. Standing tall.



This eulogy cum ‘memories come rushing’ is from Major Yusif Ali’s first born and only daughter who saw most of his army career. It is a tribute to the Memory of Yousaf Ali. She had known her father intimately and also had a glimpse of his Army Life and his postretirement period. And she sums up her experience.

She recalls as to how she heard from his father, accounts of his place of birth, his early life, and his special love and affection for his parents. She equally describes her own close, intimate and affectionate relationship with her father. She mentions that she visited her parents, from USA around middle of every year. It is with regret that she bemoans as to how she could not visit her parents in August 2006, when her father passed away. Her mother too was affected by the sad demise of her husband and she developed some ailments too. She also unfortunately passed away more than two years ago, after being sick for more than four years. This again was a trauma for her daughter as she could not attend her funeral due to Covid restrictions. It was a year

ago that she again was devastated by the sad demise of her brother (the youngest of all). She was still far away and again faced the loss helplessly, but with fond memories. We all extend our heartfelt condolences for the bereavement’s that she has faced so bravely.

From her;

Ab’be (Father in Arabic, and as we addressed him) was the only son and elder brother to the two sisters much younger than him.

He was truly a blessing for his parents after his mother suffered some male infant mortalities. Belonging to a prosperous agrarian background, and being the only male heir he, at 21, left Lucknow (UP), his birth place, to be in Pakistan in 1948.

The new country welcomed him and he became a forerunner of its Defense Forces, and was selected for the 1st PMA Long Course. He received the news while visiting his parents, who were equally jubilant.

He got married in December 1953 in Lucknow when he was a captain, and in 1955 my mother and I joined him in Quetta.

East Pakistan Regiment, was like an exploration for me the young girl. And while growing up, I saw my father in uniform which invoked in me a particular sense of jubilation and happiness. Even as an adolescent it evoked a special pride in me to see that my Ab'be had the distinction to be the part of front-line Defense of the Country, to which he owed his allegiance and a pledge that he will defend its security even at the peril of his life. This feeling was further augmented when I came to know that Abbe's name was engraved on the monument to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the 1st PMA Long Course. Following their visit to Kakul, my parents visited me in USA for the first time, and it was overdue; much to my happiness.

Patriotic on the one hand, then on the other he was dutifully in touch with his parents, too. Being away from them he simply took it being in another country. And with that optimistic approach he took a principled position of seeking permission from GHQ and visited them whenever he got leave.

He attended a course in Germany that enriched him in both experience and vernacularly. As a memento he drove back in a Volkswagen car. An experience he cherished, and the car too that was his prized possession for a long time.

After retirement his regimen didn't change. A stickler for punctuality, fitness was one of the priorities. Never missed the early morning walk. And kept a check, literally on the lighter side, not to have a paunch.

After retiring from the private sector he remained active. From being a director on the board of a few companies, to performing duties, as a first-class magistrate, and he also taught English at the American Center.

An ardent reader he was a prolific writer, and expressed views about social issues quite regularly in 'letters to the editor', that was as close to like having a column. And subconsciously I followed him and felt eventually compelled to do the Masters in Journalism

I had the pleasure of attending a get together of the first PMA in Karachi which reflected pure camaraderie and 'one for all and all for one' feel that I still cherish for Ab'be.

He wasn't a hero

Known by the world,

But a hero was

To his little girl.

...Rebecca D. Cook



Immaculate even for a Candid Click



Relaxing with the
thinking hat on! Always
felt "Good".



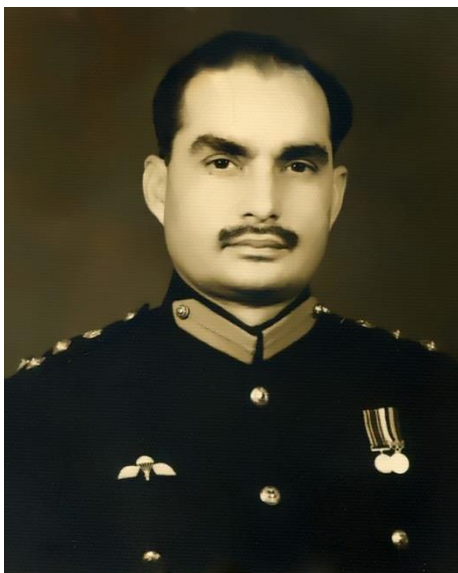
Though black and
white, but Khaki
shines



12. PA 2706 (GC-250) Brig Sardar Ahmad

Sardar Ahmad S/O Bashir Ahmad C/O Session Judge, Mianwali. On Commissioning he joined 13th Lancer's.

Brigadier & Ambassador Sardar Ahmed



Summary: Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed, of 1st PMA, PA 2706 was born on 25th May 1929, and was commissioned on 4th February 1950. He joined 13th Lancers, raised and commanded the 2nd Independent Armored Brigade Group and captured Chamb in the 1971 war. He also raised the 8th Independent Armored Brigade. In the mid 1970's he joined the Foreign Service and retired in 1989 / 90 as the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Brunei.

Details: Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed was born in Bahadur Garh on 25th May 1929, which is now part of Delhi. It was a Muslim area adjacent to Hindu Jat colonies. His family had a cordial relation with the neighboring Hindus for centuries, but that never became more than neighborly cordiality. The differences were always there. In his childhood he was even attacked by Hindu women with wheat cutters. He studied at St. Stephens College New Delhi, just like his father and elder brother, and

was very keen to be a successful professional, although it was hardly clear whether fate would take him to the military and then to civil. Before partition, his father was a Session Judge, presiding over criminal matters and rising on sheer hard work in a strongly anti-Muslim atmosphere. At the time of partition, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed's father was posted at Gujranwala, which played a critical role in what was about to happen.

Prior to 14th August 1947, as Pakistan started to take shape, social tensions had started to rise, and communal riots had started to erupt. A young Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed was at St. Stephens College, Delhi, at that time of the partition's announcement, when at his home in Bahadur Garh, a Hindu worker woman came into the house screaming, 'They are sharpening their knives. Run!'. The house was quickly vacated, and it was left as it was in a state of normal daily existence and the run for survival had started. In the confusion and mayhem, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed's eldest brother was killed by Hindu Jats near his house, while trying to retrieve some food for the children. Three more members died on the way to survival. In the meanwhile, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed, was stuck in Delhi, with no news of the family, and eventually ended up in a temporary refugee camp, not having eaten for days. He was eventually collected by his brother in law, uniting him with the family in another camp. The family flew on a chartered plane to Pakistan, with some members missing.

In Pakistan, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed had a choice to join Aitchison College or FC College – he chose the latter. Shortly thereafter he joined the Army, without his father's knowledge or consent, who had followed his father's advice, who forbade his sons from joining the British army, as 'they make brothers fight each other'.

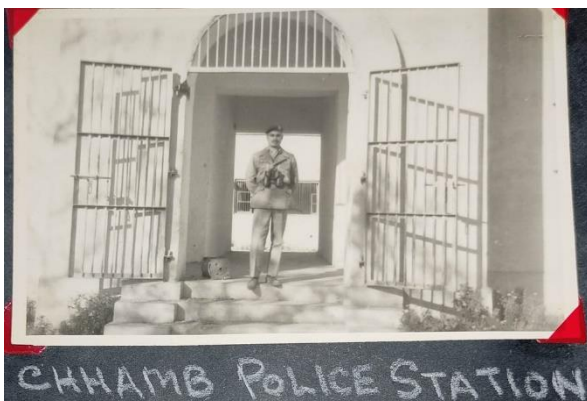
Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed was commissioned on 4th February 1950, and he joined 13th Lancers. In 1956 he went to Kentucky, USA, for a course as part of a group of officers, who were meant to be part of the training of 'allies'. It was here that he first saw the reality of what an 'ally' actually meant, evidenced by incidents, where 'allies' were told to leave meeting rooms so that the host and other closer allies can talk in private.



High Commissioner Sardar Ahmed Presenting Credentials to the Sultan of Brunei, 1988

In post mid-1971, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed received orders to raise an independent Armored Brigade, which is now known as the 2nd Independent Armored Brigade Group. He was given the 'lavish' resources of a tent, table and chair to start with. He immediately started to gather forces and filled the ranks. As soon as that was done, well before December 1971, he started war drills and simulations. His Brigade Major, who appeared not to know his temperament, opined the one and only time, that 'the Brigadier is over reacting and there will be no war', to which he was 'clarified' of realities. War broke out but, the 2nd Independent Armored Brigade Group was ready. While Dhaka was being besieged, Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed successfully led the 2nd Independent Armored Brigade Group well within Indian Territory, claiming Chamb for Pakistan. He gave the captured Indian flag to his Regiment. Civilians who were residents of the border area, and who had volunteered in the 1971 war, said they knew of the Brigadier who was 'hard, willing and able to hit the enemy'. In this war, there were many attempts on his life, and he recalled how he 'lost many drivers who were with him'. Then came the time of crossing the minefield, which he led without wearing a helmet, with tanks and volunteers with him. After the war the debate of having a Pakistani tank came up, and Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed was one of the officers who helped push the Al Khalid tank project.

Brigadier (R) Sardar Ahmed was one of the investors / contributors in the early 1950's to Fauji Cereals, a flagship company of Fauji Foundation, whose objective he said was to 'raise the calories of jawans and their families'. He later was the Commandant of the School of Armor and Mechanized Warfare Nowshera, he raised the 8th Independent Armored Brigade, and served in Central Treaty Organization (a major East – West military alliance from the 1950 – 80), Ankara, Turkey, among many other aspects.



In the Foreign Office, now a civilian, Mr. Sardar Ahmad was posted to (West) Germany, Canada, (South) Yemen and finally Brunei, where he achieved superannuation. Some of the snippets of history that the writer remembers from discussions, which hardly do justice to Mr. Sardar Ahmad's work, are, trying to get Leopard tanks and a nuclear power plant for Pakistan from Germany, listening to the complaining

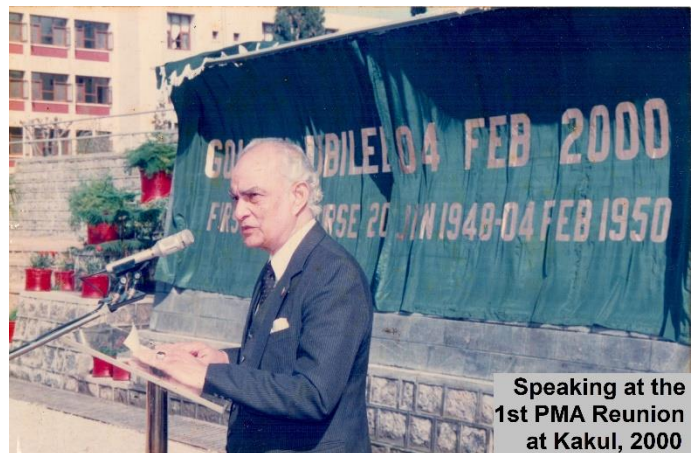
Sikhs in Canada, listening to a person who identified himself as a Jew, who warned that Pakistan's nuclear facilities are going to be attacked and Pakistan should take precautions, making sure PIA reaches Toronto, keeping a vigil on USSR's interests in and around the Red Sea and convincing the Sultan of Brunei to visit Pakistan in 1990 as the Chief Guest on the 23rd March Parade and also to invest \$1 billion in Pakistan, among other aspects. In the Foreign Office he started the housing scheme, utility stores for the lower staff in the office and was President of the Association of Retired Ambassadors for some time.

In all circumstances Mr. Sardar Ahmad pressed Pakistan's interests as best as he could. He worked on critical projects in all his missions but at every step he defended Pakistan from afar.

After retirement Brigadier & Ambassador Sardar Ahmed was a regular writer on security, international relations and related matters. He appeared on PTV (which was the only channel at that time) and spoke about Pakistan's interests. In his personal life, he avidly worked on social matters by helping Kashmiri refugees and building multiple mosques at Rawal Town and Sharifabad (both in Islamabad). He pushed for female health care and female cottage industry work training, as well. In February 2000, he had the honor of addressing the 1st PMA Golden Jubilee celebration held at Kakul.

Brigadier & Ambassador Sardar Ahmed passed away, peacefully but suddenly, on 6th March 2005, in his house in Islamabad, in his room on his own bed with his family with him. He died as a soldier and a ghazi, and is buried in the Army Graveyard in Rawalpindi.

Brigadier & Ambassador Sardar Ahmed is survived by his wife Mrs. Waheeda Sardar, Daughter Dr. Iram Nadeem whose PhD was on the East India Company timeline, eldest son Faisal Sardar who is a Banker in one of the largest banks in the US, and youngest son Faheem Sardar (writer of this transcript 03335150860) who is advising the Government on Finance and Economics. Mrs Waheeda Sardar has recently expired.



Speaking at the
1st PMA Reunion
at Kakul, 2000



13. PA 2707 Muhammad Saadat Ali

Agha Saadat Ali Khan S/o Agha Shujaat Ali Khan was born at Amritsar on 25 December 1928. On Commissioning he joined the Royal Corps of Engineers.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Saadat Ali was born in Amritsar (India), to a Pathan family, who had immigrated to India from Kandahar (Afghanistan) two generations back. He was the eldest of 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Two of his younger brothers followed in his footsteps to join the Armed Forces, with his younger, Air Chief Marshal Zulfiqar Ali Khan, achieving the distinction and the honor to command Pakistan Air Force, and the youngest, Captain Nawazish Ali, achieving the highest honor of embracing Shahadat in East Bangladesh when he refused to surrender during the Fall of Dhaka. He got his early education from schools in present India but his intermediate (FSc) was from Military College Jhelum Sarai Alamgir.

He had the distinct honor of being the first and the senior most 3-star General of Corps of Engineers.



During his illustrious career he held various command, staff and instructional appointments, such as Command of an Engineer Battalion, Commander Military Engineering Services (CMES) of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and Pakistan Navy (PN), DS (Instructor) Command & Staff College, Quetta, Commandant Engineers Center, Commandant Military College of Engineering, Commander Engineers of a strike Corps, Director General of Engineers (GHQ), Vice Chief of General Staff (GHQ) and Engineers in Chief (Joint Staff). While in service, his last appointment was as Chairman Overseas Construction (OCP) and as such, he was responsible for the civil engineering projects/operations of 7 Pakistan government's sponsored construction companies working abroad.

One of his major contributions to the service, includes construction of a very long span suspension bridge (Ayub Bridge) over the Indus River, to connect Sakardu (Gilgit) with the rest of Pakistan. The commendable part was that he did it as a Lieutenant, with no prior training in engineering or the launching of bridges.

As a Lieutenant Colonel (CMES Air), he constructed the first Ski Lift in Pakistan (for PAF) in Naltar (near Gilgit), by way of modifying a Volkswagen car's engine.

During the 1971 war, there was a great danger of low flying aircrafts of Indian Force potentially targeting our strategic installations, especially POL dumps etc; so he gave the idea of tying balloons with strings (like in WW-II), in such a way that it would make attacking aircrafts fly high enough that they would become easy targets for our anti-aircraft guns. He also got these balloons manufactured at war footings from the local rubber industry. Similar balloons were later placed to cover the general area of Kahuta, and the mountainous valleys/approaches leading to it. As Chairman Overseas Construction, he particularly gave impetus to attract business abroad and make a name for Pakistan in the International Construction Market.



Inauguration of Ayub Bridge



Receiving Hillal-i-Imtiaz Military

He was also a keen educationist and established two colleges during his service. During his posting in Risalpur as Center Commandant, he was made aware of the lack of higher education available in or near the cantonment area, and the difficulty that parents had in sending their children to Nowshera for their further schooling. Thus, he within a few months opened Nisar Shaheed Science College (now Degree College) in Risalpur, and his Son Brig (Retd) ALI Hassan had the privilege of being the first student of this College. He faced a similar situation when he was posted from Risalpur to Mangla as Commander Engineers, so he immediately established a college there as well.

He led a very simple life and was never fond of any artificial glamour. He was neat and had very clean habits, and liked to walk every day. As a family tradition, he was a keen hunter and went on a number of memorable hunting expeditions.

On a personal level, he was testament to a great human being; a man of high character and values. Who was the epitome of honest and a God fearing Person? Lieutenant General Agha Saadat Ali, when he retired, as Lieutenant General and Chairman of 7 companies working abroad, handling projects worth billions of dollars, settled in a single story, 3-bedroom house in Islamabad and happily drove a Suzuki FX (now called Mehran). Whenever anybody would ask him to upgrade his car to one that would complement his "status", he would refuse, stating that this was all he could afford and was very comfortable with it as well. Remarkably, as Chairman OCP he was officially/legally allowed to keep his staff car (a Toyota Crown), which was under his use during service. He, however, declined as it did not appeal to his principles.

He was a man of his words. As Chairman OCP, he once had to visit Darya Khan Bridge site, after a lot of rains and flood in the area. When he approached near to the site, he found out that the roads were completely cut

off, and that no vehicle, except a tractor could negotiate the 15 kms area effected by the muds and water. His staff asked him to call it a day, but he said that he had promised the people on the bridge site that he would visit, and that despite the odds, he had to keep his word. To that end, he sat on the mud flap of a tractor with its driver, and drove through the muddy waters to reach the designated site as promised.

Earlier in the building of the Karakorum Highway the engineer officers of our course, namely Brigadier Safdar Butt, Brigadier Saadat Ali and Brig Ijaz all played a full and active role.

Lieutenant General Agha Saadat Ali Khan had the distinction of becoming the first three-star General of the Corps of Engineers. He had distinguished service in various assignments.

“If I am asked to recall Aghagul as a person, then I can think of no better husband, father, son, or human being; and if someone wants me to recall his weakness, then I fail to remember any single one, as my memories of him do not go beyond his love for me, his family and the entire humanity. Such loving personalities are rarely found in real life and I was one such lucky woman to have found Aghagul in my life. May Allah bless his soul?”

...Nusrat Agha, Wife.

“As a father, a husband and head of the family, he was the gentlest, caring and loving personality. He was always like a guardian angel for his entire family. He would always go an extra mile to help or comfort member(s) of his family in whatever way he could. He was a thorough gentleman and during the 54 years that I spent under his blessed presence, I do not recall him being harsh either with me or with any one whom he may have come in contact. He always devoted maximum time towards his family. Our family is a proud Marshal family with my father’s First Cousin Major General Akbar Khan having the honour to be PA “ONE” of Pakistan Army, whereas his younger brother Major General Anwar Khan was the first “Pakistani” Engineer in Chief. I followed in my father’s footsteps and retired from Corps of Engineers as a brigadier. My eldest and only sister got married to an army officer who too retired as a brigadier.

Due to his loving nature, he was known as Agha Baba to all his family and loved ones. His grandchildren still remember him with lots of respect and love, as he was always there when needed. To me my father was my mentor, my best friend and my confidant. And so was the case with children of the family, as most of them kept their prize bonds with him for safe keeping and monitoring. After his demise, my mother lost all interest in life and lived a very lonely life. She also later expired on 21 January, 2014, to join her loving husband and life partner in his Heavenly Abode.

During the last few years of his life he developed a back problem for which he had to be operated. His courage and perseverance during operation and post recovery was legendary. During this period, due to some complication, his back had to be re-stitched without local anesthesia. I was standing beside him and what courage, what resilience, he did not even whisper or murmur any indication of pain. About 2 ½ years after the operation, my father breathed his last at the age of 79 years on 17 Ramzan (18 September 2008) in Naval Hospital Islamabad.

We always miss and remember our Agha Baba. May he always rest in peace? A legend with the heart of Gold. He breathed nobility all his life, we thank him for showing us always the path of dignity, honour and humility."

Brig (Retired) Agha Ali Hassan, Son.

"Our father, our Aghababa; one word fits him well – 'Angel.' Yes, he was an angel of a father, an angel of a husband and an angel of a man. Forgiving, caring, loving and always giving, giving and giving. When he passed away, his personal possessions were nothing but his old clothes and some trinkets but the treasures of his good deeds and happy memories for his children and grandchildren have no bounds. May his soul rest in peace?"

...Tehmina Aleem, daughter.

"If I were to choose one word to describe my grandfather it would have to be 'love'. He was the most loving and compassionate person I have ever known. To him nothing was more important than his family. His greatest joy was having his children around and he was happiest when his family was all under his roof. He had a great sense of humor and would always tease us. I miss him dearly and will always be thankful that God made him my grandfather." ...Haroon Hafeez.

General Saadat was a very humane and kind person. He loved all human beings and expressed himself by helping all in need. He was a friend to with whom he always had a strong bond and communication." ...Brig (Retd) Aleem Majeed Ahmad, Son-in-law.



Family Photograph



***Lt Gen Agha Muhammad Saadat Ali
(In his Traditional Dress)***



With Lt Gen Safdar Butt at a Dinner



as Head of The Family



With Younger Brothers Zulfiqar & Nisar



*Mrs and Lt Col Muhammad Saadat Ali
At Command & Staff College Quetta*



With GC Muhammad Iqbal Hussain



Discussion with a foreign Delegation as Lt Col



Attending a course in UK



Attending a Dinner in China



Begum and General Saadat Ali



With Son Brig (then Capt) Agha Ali Hassan



With Wife Children and Grand Children



Inaugurating Nawazish Ali Shaheed (Brother's) Road in Risalpur



14. PA 2708 (GC-179) Capt. Mohammad Iqbal Hussain

Mohammad Iqbal Hussain S/O Mohammad Habib Ullah Khan was born on 29.12.1926. He belonged to Chak No 124 G.B. Lyallpur. On Commissioning he Joined 1st Punjab Regiment.



15. PA2709 (GC-190) Brig Fazal-ur-Raheem

Mian Fazli Raheem S/O Fazal Karim Khan was born on 14.1928. He belonged to Nowshera City. On Commissioning he joined 16th Punjab Regiment.

A RICHER DUST CONCEALED

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PA-2709, Brig. Fazal Ur Raheem, was born Mian Fazal-e-Raheem on 1 April 1926 in Dheri Khel, a rural suburb across the Kabul River from Nowshera. Among all his course-mates and students at the Pakistan Military Academy, he was popularly and fondly known as Mian Sahib.

Childhood

He was the first-born of Mian Fazal Karim and Wazir Begum. She died of tuberculosis in 1930, having given birth to another son, the late Col. Rehmatullah. Mian Karim, a Captain in the British Indian Army, was often posted to places he couldn't take his boys along – the longest being a 4-year WWII stint in Egypt during which he was injured in a road accident while on duty. So even though the Captain's elders got him remarried soon after his wife's death, the boys spent their early years in various houses under the watch of aunts and grannies.



In Dheri Khel: A lad who lost his mother

The new Karim household was a busy one. Over the next 20 years, an estimated 10 children were

born of which 6 survived. Naturally, Mian Sahib's early years were difficult. He felt lonely and neglected. His father loved him, but duty kept the Captain away for long periods. The boy's love for his father, and how it was reciprocated, was to become the supreme motivational force in his life. He loved and served humanity in general, but in particular he loved and served tirelessly, through old age and terminal illness, the children and grand-children of a father whose love and kindness he could not repay.

Given his sensibilities and noetic bend, he took to books at an early age to mitigate his loneliness. His teenage favourite was Wilde's *De Profundis*. That a work so sombre and so hauntingly beautiful would appeal to someone so young spoke of his intellect and aesthetics, developed well beyond his years. Rupert Brooke too was a youthful favourite. He was growing into an articulate, soft-spoken, handsome young man with an uncanny command of English, Urdu, Punjabi and Pushto. He spoke all four with such ease and grace, without hint of a regional accent, that most of his mates couldn't tell his ethnic origin. At his funeral in 2010, a childhood friend, Dr. Idris, memorably said: "He was the most beautiful man to be ever born in Nowshera. Every time he spoke, it was as if flowers not words were emanating from his mouth." As he matured, Mian Sahib loved Ghalib, Iqbal and later Faiz for their subtle treatment of themes such as liberty, duty, individuality and loneliness. He took heart from knowing that others far more talented than him, far more accomplished, had suffered far more. He began to understand the nature of suffering and the central importance of humility to human fragility.

This fascination with suffering and humility was to become a source of self-evaluation throughout Mian Sahib's life. He would always measure himself by his ability to deal with adversity and to be humble in success. In his diaries, he is often livid with himself for not being humble enough. He would be hard on himself, with vicious self-analysis – a quality that turned him into a hard-task-master who often brought out the best in himself and his charges. But, having lost his mother at four, he was equally cognisant of people's emotional needs. The deprivation at the heart of his own suffering had turned him into an

empathy; he was highly sensitive to the hardships of others.

Youth and College

Upon matriculation in 1942, Mian Sahib gained admission to Islamia College Peshawar. To drop him off at the hostel, his father rode the bus with him from Nowshera. He bought his son a new pair of shoes, a hockey stick and some books. The boy loved hockey and sports in general, much as he loved books. As they bid farewell by the lush-green lawns of the College in front of the imposing edifice, Mian Karim had tears in his eyes. He wondered if the world would acknowledge the gem he was leaving at its doorstep. He spoke a few words of affection, but none of concern. He wasn't concerned because he knew what the boy was made of – he didn't need to tell his son how to behave or what to do. Nevertheless, feelings had the better of him. Even at such a tender moment, the boy remained composed and comforted his father.

His shoes were stolen within the first week. He would wear them everywhere but not when playing hockey. He would polish them vigorously and look proudly at them often. He would put them by the side of the field, shining and conspicuous, while he played barefoot. Sure enough, one September evening they were stolen from the sideline. The boy wrote to his father, apologising and reassuring him that the old pair would do splendidly. The father wrote back, only to reaffirm his love. Even on his death-bed, nearly 70 years later, the son would raise a trembling finger at his father's portrait on the wall to recall the man's generous, forgiving nature and feel touched. It was a love for the ages.

In that part of India, Islamia College was an illustrious institution of its time. Here at last, for the first time in his life, Mian Sahib found himself among kindred spirits. He developed a certain pride in his alma mater and years later described it thus:

"The college had an excellent faculty. The Principal, Dr. Umar Hayat Malik, had a PhD in Mathematics from the UK. The Head of the English Department was Mr. Harris, a Scotoman devoted to English literature. When Dr. Malik was selected as Director Statistics and posted to

New Delhi, Mr. I.D. Scott, who was M.A. Oxford and belonged to ICS cadre, replaced him as the Principal. Professor Muhammad Farid was the Head of the Department of History. He was an honours graduate in History from a British university. The Dean of Islamic Studies was a graduate of Al-Azhar University."



Pakistan Movement

Mian Sahib was an early, wholehearted, and permanent convert to the idea of Pakistan. Even when in old age he lamented the sorry state of affairs in the country, he maintained that Jinnah had done the right thing by fighting for the nation-state and winning its independence. This loyalty to Jinnah and Pakistan came about through a series of experiences at Islamia College. In 1944, he was elected Secretary of the Khyber Union, the student union at the College. It was a prestigious office and it marked the coming of age of his political consciousness. It was also an early introduction to democratic values that he lived by all his life, in spite of being a soldier. He knew India was not going to be a free country if its young people kept lingering on the fence. He educated himself to be able to evaluate the politics and society of India so that he could understand his identity and choose a side.

He had lived in a Muslim majority region all his life, but his father's vicious postings had given

him plenty of exposure to other communities. From this experience, he gleaned that India was made up of several cultures based on language, food, customs, superstition, ritual and belief. While the rest of India's cultures had been dominated and assimilated for millennia by Hindu ritual and tradition, Islamic culture had stood apart. The divisiveness of Brahmanism – labelling human beings from beneath touchable to above approach based only on descent – was abhorrent to many. Yet, in spite of suffering this self-serving Brahman culture for millennia, other castes and minorities in India had learned to accept and live with it. But not Muslims. They believed their culture was more egalitarian and therefore more modern and pragmatic.

From his study of history, Mian Sahib concluded that Hindus had been particularly servile to the British and had in fact helped the latter defeat the Mughals in the hope of regaining their lost empire. While he did not hold this against the Hindus, for it was a natural act of self-interest, he felt that history had thus pitted Hindus and Muslims in opposing positions with differing interests. In his view, by cooperating with the British for 200 years, Hindus had begun to monopolise both high office and big business in India and they fully intended to consolidate this monopoly after independence. Since Muslims viewed the Hindu domination of government and business during the British rule as an act of treachery and betrayal, the least of fiction after independence could ignore a fire. He didn't know that India was bound to burn anyway.

So he chose his side and became fervently active in the student movement for Pakistan. In that capacity, he met Jinnah when the leader came to address the youth in Peshawar in 1945. The young man was deeply impressed, so much by the gentleman's clarity of vision and command of language as by his attire and "Englishness." Here was somebody who could pass for an Englishman and yet was fighting to end British rule in India. This, to Mian Sahib, was the epitome of the civilised man: Someone whose gaze belied a fierce independence, who could be himself without calling any attention to himself. No half-naked gimmicks of the Congress leaders, no use of young women as crutches, just a straight-talking, straight-walking, English-looking gentleman who had become the hane of

the English. The sheer romance and irony of this was an epiphany for the literary young man.

Ambition and Sacrifice

Mian Sahib graduated from Islamia College with a B.A. in Political Science in 1946. His friends now included the younger of his professors as well as the sons of many prominent families in the region. He was reading voraciously and writing copiously. During those years, he wanted variously to become a doctor, a writer, an actor, and sometimes even a critic. He acted out entire scenes of movies and plays after watching a performance with his friends. One of them, Yousaf Sarwat, later an editor at the Financial Times, recalled with immense fondness: "His memory was phenomenal. He would remember significant dialogues, word for word, and repeat them to our delight. He would even write his own little skits and perform them for us."

But all of that was little more than flirting with fate. Deep down, he knew that none of it was to be. His beloved father had 10 months to feed and so plans for feeding them. Settling back in his ancestral home in Dheri Khel after retirement, Mian Karim had occupied himself with public welfare. Among other things, he commissioned a committee for constructing the Nowshera College and worked tirelessly until the co-educational institution was completed a decade later. Meanwhile, the house was run on his paltry pension. Ten months could not be fed on that, let alone clothed or educated, and Mian Sahib was now ready to mortgage his life to pay his father's outstanding debts and obligations to his progeny. His family in Dheri Khel had no idea that out of his love for his father he would soon fill a role so far beyond his years that even his love of literature and history would seem trivial in comparison. That he was about to set sail, for their sake, on a course in whose wake all his personal desire and ambition would be swept away forever.

FMA, Fort Benning, and Qornociliff

Once the dream of Pakistan was realised, Mian Sahib's sole purpose in life was to ease his father's financial burden of raising many children. But making a living would not be enough – he needed something that would also channel his youthful, emotional and patriotic

energies. So he applied for the 1st PMA Long Course and, small wonder given his academic and athletic ability, got in. In his own words, "Days passed into weeks and months into years, with a new challenge every day, until I found myself marching up the steps and standing in front of Quaid-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan on 4 Feb 1950."

He graduated as a second-lieutenant near the top of his class, being an Under Officer of Khalid Company, and was commissioned into 19 Punjab Regiment in Sylhet, East Pakistan. The CO appointed him Unit Intelligence Officer. "I thus learnt in 19 Punjab the nuts and bolts of minor tactics through company and platoon level exercises with troops. After four years with the Battalion, I was selected to be an instructor at the PMA. My experiences with 19 Punjab and my earlier training at the PMA provided me a solid base for my job as Platoon Commander of 14 PMA Long Course." In the next few years, he was selected for two prestigious overseas courses: A year-long professional course in 1957 at the venerated US School of Infantry in Fort Benning, Georgia, and then in 1959 another year at the renowned Australian Staff College in Queenscliff, Victoria.



'65 War and 17 Punjab Haideri

Upon his return in 1960, he was posted to the General Staff Branch at GHQ and then to 17

Punjab in 1963. "I felt a personal attachment with this regiment because my course mate, Raja Aziz Bhatti, had been posted to 17 Punjab after receiving the Sword of Honour." By now, Mian Sahib was well-reputed for his robust intellect and incisive analysis. With tensions escalating on the border in December 1964, his exceptional analytical skills were needed at the ISI Directorate. He served there in a crucial role throughout the war and filmed a documentary on espionage tactics which is still shown to students at the Intelligence School.

After the war, he was promoted to Lt. Col. and posted as Commanding Officer of the one-and-only 17th Battalion of the Punjab Regiment in Jessore, East Pakistan. Only a few months earlier, Maj. Bhatti had forever enhanced the prestige of this battalion through exceptional gallantry that cost him his life and earned him the only *Nishan-e-Haider* of that war. The battalion had been renamed 17 Punjab Haideri in recognition of Bhatti's ultimate sacrifice and Mian Sahib felt deeply honoured to lead it so soon after his friend's heroics. His ACR dated 19 September 1966, confirming him as CO 17 Punjab, says:

"A capable and conscientious officer who possesses sound knowledge of his own as well as other arms of service. He is very quick on the uptake and his performance on exercises and tasks assigned to him has been of a high order. He is entirely dependable, has plenty of drive and shows good judgment in delegating responsibility to his subordinates. He is co-operative and willing worker with a steady, even and equable temperament. He is frank, tactful and has pleasant manners for which he is well-liked by his superiors, equals and juniors.... He is impartial, free from bias and a good disciplinarian. He has good sense of humour and socially mixes well and correctly."

'71 War and Final Assignments

In 1969, he was appointed GSO-I at the Command and Staff College, Quetta, where he wrote a clairvoyant paper building an historical and philosophical case for national defence. He wrote several other papers on tactical and strategic issues, including the challenges of dealing with Afghanistan. Ever a man of peace, he argued for the imperative of friendly relations with all neighbours and for a national army to secure not only the borders of the Republic but

also the rights of its citizens. His ideas were brilliant but radical and may not have found a voice had it not been for the kindred spirit of the Commandant. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Sharif (later Chairman JCSC) wholeheartedly believed in his G-I's depth of analysis and impeccable logic and encouraged his vision. Each his own man, yet the two formed a lifelong bond to which words like friend and colleague cannot do justice.

Shortly thereafter, Mian Sahib was promoted and posted as Colonel Staff of an infantry division at Sialkot. He became a Brigadier in 1970 and was placed in command of 7 AK Brigade at Jari Kas.



He had already served in the area as a Major and was well-acquainted with the terrain. Recalling his experiences as Colonel Staff in Sialkot, he engaged the services of the Engineer Company Commander to renovate the bunkers and other repairable defenses. This turned out to be both a prescient and a decisive preparation. The GOC 23 Division recognised that and wrote to him on 20 September 1971, weeks before war broke out: *"I must thank you for your dedication resulting in improvements in the standard of training, discipline and preparedness for war... I am confident 23 Division will give an excellent account of itself if and when called upon to do its duty in any future conflict."*

Holding the Division's left flank during the '71 conflict, his brigade took an aggressive-defense posture to frustrate the opposition's attempts at infiltrating from the flank. The 7 AK's defenses were so impenetrable that some of its battalions were even able to make inroads. Mian Sahib thus became one of the few commanders who advanced on Indian-held territory during that conflict. After the war, the captured territory was

used as a bargaining chip to revert the cease-fire line back to the 1948 positions. GOC 23 Div wrote to him on 13 January 1973:

"I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and through you to all ranks of 7 AK Brigade.... You have commanded this Brigade resolutely, firmly and justly which I greatly appreciate and which has gone a long way in making our mission a success."

In the Spring of 1973, Mian Sahib was a passenger in a road accident while returning from an inspection tour in his Brigade area on his Jeep. He was hospitalized for two months and eventually lost his medical category. His last command was 77 Brigade in Kharian (first under 19 Div and later under 17 Div). On 15 August 1973, GOC 19 Division wrote to him:

"I have been deeply touched by the spirit of patriotism and dedication with which you addressed yourself to the problems of dev of defense-works and comms in your area in particular to the gen improvement of cbt efficiency of your fmn. I hope one day these efforts will bear fruit and we all will fondly recall your contribution towards this war effort. You also have the privilege of having fought a war with your bde and in which you had given a good acct of yourselves. This is something of which anyone can justly feel proud."



Post-Army

In 1973, several vacancies were announced in the Civil Service of Pakistan because of the departure of scores of Bengali officers who had chosen to migrate to Bangladesh. Mian Sahib enrolled for the Lateral Entry Examination along with 35,000 other candidates from all across Pakistan and stood 5th in the published merit list. He took voluntary retirement from the Army and

joined the Civil Service in 1975. GOC 17 Div had this to say to him on 1 March 1975: *“Having seen the MS letter regarding your most richly deserved appointment as Joint Secretary in the Planning Division of the Federal Government, it is almost certain that you shall be painfully departing from us. On the one hand I am indeed very happy that you have been selected for this high post in the Central Government which you deserve every bit, however, on the other hand, I earnestly believe that the departure of a very bright career officer like yourself from the Army shall be a great loss.... I am indeed grateful to you to have so devotedly and efficiently led your Brigade under my command. Your contributions towards training and operational preparedness of 17 Division have been enormously befitting and rich in dividends.... I value a great deal my friendship and brotherhood with a magnificent personality like yourself.”*

In 1981, he was in a UN Fellowship Program at the US Office of Personnel Management. The Program Director’s words reflect something of Mian Sahib’s “magnificent” personality: *“Mr. Raheem is a highly sophisticated and polished gentleman who reflects honor and dignity on his Government service. He was keenly interested in the US system of public administration and everyone with whom he met was impressed with him. It would indeed be a pleasure to welcome other Pakistani officials of his high caliber.”*



As Managing Director of the Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds from 1982 to 1986, he brought that institution from the brink of bankruptcy to a state of enviable health. The Establishment Secretary had this to say in his Summary for the Prime Minister: *“As a result of dedicated efforts of Brig. Fazal-ur-Raheem the total assets of the Fund have increased from Rs.*

60.37 million in 1982/83 to Rs. 101.56 million in 1984-85 with an average profit of over Rs. 2 million per month during the 1984/85 financial year. Benevolent Fund Building was completed in record time and long outstanding cases were settled without recourse to litigation. The total number of outstanding cases that amounted to 727 in 1981/82 were reduced to 197 in 1984/85.... The Board of Trustees was able to show a total savings of Rs. 12 million in 1984/85 as compared to an approximate total of 0.6 million in 1982/83.”

Retirement and the Inevitable

Mian Sahib retired as Additional Secretary (Establishment) in 1986 upon turning 60 and did not seek any extensions. He had a legion of close friends in both the military and the civil service – like the late Gen. Sharif, the late Brig. Luqman Mehmood, and others. His greatest joy in retirement was to shoot the breeze for hours with such friends in person or on the phone. As in service so in retirement, he accosted people only for their company and not for what they could do for him. He continued to work for the welfare of his father's children and grandchildren. This is how he occupied the last 24 years of his life, quietly, and passed away peacefully at 11:09 AM on the 28th of September 2010, surrounded by those who loved him.

All through his service to the nation, Mian Sahib claimed no credit nor ever kept a paisa for himself. He insisted on serving humanity but never a man, not even himself. His humble house and modest means are forever a testament to the gem his father had placed at the world’s doorstep in 1942. That new pair of shoes wasn’t the only thing he was happy to live without. He lived on little and shared all he had. His largesse did not end with his life: the Fazal Ur Raheem Trust for Healthcare, Education and Relief (FURTHER) has helped graduate 44 students with professional degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, and IT. Paraphrased, some of his favourite lines from *The Soldier* serve him well:

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there’s some corner of a fertile field
That is forever peaceful. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;*



16. PA 2710 (GC-279) Col Abdul Wadood Khan



17. PA 2711 (GC-164) Col Hamid Hussain Shigri

C/O Syed Hasan Sind Times Press Burns Road Karachi

He was born on 4th December 1925 at Simla. On Commissioning on 4th February 1950, he joined East Bengal Regiment

Colonel Hamid Hussain Shigri

Born in 1925 in Simla, he lost his father in a fall from his horse. Hamid Hussain Shigri spent his



Childhood in the hill station where his mother remarried. Physically strong, fair, hazel eyed Hamid was boisterous, fond of playing pranks with young and old and excelled in all sports. Extremely quick witted and always playful; he endeared himself to all. These traits made him a larger than life persona, full of humour and positivity.

He loved football and went on to play for Mohammadan Sporting at Calcutta as a forward and would have



Shigri with S. M. Akhtar

made a very successful career in sports. However, with partition in 1947 and the extended family in Simla, which was in the trade and hospitality businesses; they opting for Pakistan, so he accompanied them to Rawalpindi. Seeing an opportunity to join the army when induction for 1st PMA Long Course was being carried out, he went to GHQ and impressed on the then Adjutant General Brig Raza to give representation to the area of Skardu. To this he agreed, and gave Hamid the waiver of him being overage for admission in PMA.

In PMA he excelled as a cadet as he had found his true spirits and was exhibiting them forcefully in his new life in the Army. He captained the football team and made a mark for himself in sports. Due to his forceful personality, he was appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Pakistan Battalion.



Hamid Hussain Shigri In the center, Captain of the PMA football team.

He became the first commissioned officer from Baltistan on 4th February 1950, blazing a trail for those who hailed from that area. In 1976 his eldest son Air Commodore Shahid Hamid Shigri emulated him by becoming the first Air Force Pilot from Skardu.



First P.A.F Pilot from Skardu .Air Commodore Shahid Hamid Shigri earned fame as a dashing fighter pilot. He went on to command 18 Squadron, Shorkot, He had a gift for the unusual and was handpicked to lead the 'drone' programme for PAF, and was able to provide a solid platform for this before his untimely death in a road accident on 11 March 2007. Shahid carried out remarkable selfless service after the disastrous earthquake of 2006, mounting a rescue effort with his sons, of the Margalla Towers and later a rehabilitation programme in Bagh, Azad Kashmir. He was awarded the Sitara-e-Eesar.

Hamid joined 7 Baluch and went on to do regimental soldiering besides basic and other courses. This included military police course which led to him being posted into Corps of Military Police as Chief Instructor of the MP School in D.I.Khan. He attended the Provost Marshal course in 1962 at



Hamid Hussain Shigri, then a major attended the course. He is seen here in the second row from the top, fourth from left.

Fort Gordon, Georgia, USA.

His love for adventure landed him as Commandant Gilgit Scouts (GS) in 1963; the remarkable force



Young Major Hamid Hussain Shigri, commanded the illustrious Gilgit Scouts which had liberated Gilgit-Baltistan in 1947-48.

Hamid turned the GS into more than an equivalent of regular army unit excelling in marksmanship, drill and physical fitness.

Which had played a leading role in liberation of GB in 1947-48. He was renowned for his professionalism and his football skills. In Gilgit, it was said that Major Shigri was not allowed to kick the ball with his left foot as it was so powerful that if the defender came in its way, he would be knocked out unconscious! The other story was that the goal netting would need to be replaced.

On the eve of the 1965 war, he was posted to 31 Baluch and saw action in the Khem Kharan sector.



CO 31 Baluch, Lt Col Hamid Hussain Shighri the officers of the unit in the field.

Subsequently he was promoted as a Lieutenant Colonel and took over the unit as CO. In 1969 he became Commandant Northern Scouts and then in 1970 posted as Deputy Commandant East Bengal Regiment in Chittagong. He and his family miraculously survived the heinous activities carried out in March 1971, by the dissident rebels. They were evacuated first to Dacca and then back to West Pakistan.

He was posted as Station Commander Sialkot and then he was sent as DIG Baluchistan Quetta This was followed by a stint as DIG Rangers Lahore and finally Station Commander Multan. He retired in 1976. Post retirement he set-up a successful enterprise in partnership with AVM Abdul Qadir and Maj Gen Riaz Azeem.

He found ample time to play golf and is credited with a hole-in-one at the Rawalpindi Golf Club. He managed the Pakistan golf team at the Seoul Olympics and in Hawaii.



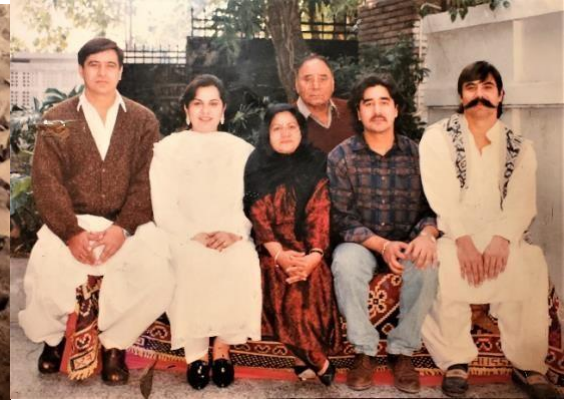
Receiving a trophy from General Zia-ul- Haq at the Rawalpindi Golf Course.

He was always immaculately dressed taking great care in selection of accessories, especially headgear. His other great love was food. He savored *Oghri*, *payee*, *chappal kabab*, *Mianjee ki daal*, *baffa ka halwa*, *kalakand*. Among fruits lychee, mangoes and grapefruit were his favourites.

Colonel Hamid Hussain Shigri suffered his greatest loss with the passing away of his eldest son Air Commodore Shahid Hamid Shigri in a road accident on March 2007; heartbroken himself, he was a pale shadow of his former self and died in December 2008. His wife Shakira Sultana Shigri died on 11 January 2023. His surviving children are Sajjad, Sibtain and Shahnaz. There are thirteen grandchildren.

Hamid Hussain Shigri with his wife Shakira Sultana, eldest son Shahid Hamid Shigri on the left, with Shahnaz Bano Shigri. On the extreme right Sajjad Hamid Shigri with Sibtain Hamid Shigri.

The earlier photograph is from 1964, the later 1996, twenty two years apart.



Some Photographs with his Family







18. PA 2712(GC-186) Lt Gen Jahandad Khan

Lieutenant General Jehandad Khan

Lt Gen (Retd) Jahan Dad Khan was born on 1st April 1929 in his village Malhoo, Tehsil: Hazro, District: Attock (Cambellpur at that time). His father was by profession an agriculturalist belonging to a middle class family. His father died when he was 15 years old. His family migrated from Kohat in NWFP (Now KPK) about four centuries ago and settled in Malhoo, Punjab. He belonged to the Bangash tribe of Pashtuns. The Gen had a son and a daughter.

As per tradition, he was taught Holy Quran and formal education started from school in the village. For secondary and intermediate education, he had to walk to Hazro as there was no transport available at that time. Hazro was about 20 miles from village Malhoo.

All those students aspiring to join Armed Forces, had the option to join University Officers Training Corps (UOTC) at Niaz Beg, Lahore. He joined this training and at the end decided to join the Armed Forces.

After passing F. Sc in March 1946, he joined Islamia College, Peshawar and graduated in October 1947. He was still at Islamia College when Pakistan was born on 14th August 1947.

Army Life

After partition, applications were called for 1st PMA Course. He applied and was called for interview before the services board and was directed to report to Kakul on 25 January 1948. It was during training that Quaid-e-Azam died on 11 September 1948.

The General was commissioned in the Regiment of Artillery on 4th February 1950 and posted to 1st Mountain Regiment. He was selected for Staff College, Quetta and joined in December 1959. At the conclusion of the course, he was posted as BM of 10 Division, Artillery at Lahore. In June 1963, he was attached with the British Army of the Rhine in Germany.



In 1964, he was appointed as officer in charge of an intelligence organization. His area of responsibility was roughly the present day Punjab province. He was still serving in the same post when 1965 war started. After cease fire was agreed, he was assigned as Military Secretary to the Governor of West Pakistan, i.e. Nawab Malik Amir Muhammad Khan of Kala Bagh and remained with the Governor till he resigned.

The General was given a field assignment to raise a new Artillery regiment at Sialkot. After some time, the regiment was reassigned to be stationed at Lahore. On promotion as Colonel in 1970, he was posted as Deputy Director Artillery in GHQ. From there on promotion as Brigadier, he was posted as Commander 7 Div. Artillery. During his stay here, the 1971 war started.

At the end of the war, he was detailed to attend NDC in Rawalpindi (now Islamabad). According to the General, his visit to China was the most educative. He was greatly impressed by the dedication and national motivation of the Chinese people.

On the conclusion of the course, he was posted as Commander Corps Artillery at Lahore. After serving for a year in this assignment, he was given command of an Infantry Brigade at Lahore.

During the court martial of officers of the famous conspiracy of 1973, he acted as senior member of the military court, which was presided by General Zia-ul-Haq. The defense of accused officers was conducted by very distinguished lawyers of that time.

Islamic Summit was held at Lahore in 1974. Almost all the heads of the Muslim Countries attended. Military officers were assigned as conducting officers with them. As such the General was appointed as Military Secretary to Sheikh Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, The Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

General Zia-ul-Haq, On becoming COAS, he posted him as GOC, 18 Division in Hyderabad. During his period, he had to witness the devastating flood of 1976 and burial of Z.A. Bhutto in 1978. On completion of his tenure as GOC, he was posted as incharge Artillery Directorate at GHQ.

As luck was on his side, he was promoted as Lt Gen in 1980 and assigned as commander 10 Corps. He took over charge from Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chisti. He was posted as Governor/MLA of Sindh province in 1984. On retirement from Army in 1986, he was sworn in as the civilian Governor Sindh and resigned in 1987.

Post Retirement Life

The General was of the view that whenever you join any service, the day of retirement has to come. For this purpose, in mind, he started planning for retired life after becoming Major. After every promotion, he kept on changing possible post-retirement scenario. However, after becoming Governor Sindh, there was no reason to work for living. His two children were settled in their own lives and he himself was living a comfortable life. It was at this stage that he decided to do some social work. The motivation behind it was the history of charitable trusts. He was in particular inspired by Haji Murad Trust complex in Gujranwala and decided to start his own trust. Brief of trust started by him are listed below.

Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital.

The thought behind it was that Sight (eye) enables us to see and praise ALLAH's abounding manifestations in the world. The eye installs imagination and inculcates perception. The feeling of sightless comes to mind. Some are not born blind, but, due to delayed or no medical help, they are not able to recover from this eye ailment and they lose their eye sight. Statistics from WHO on various diseases in Pakistan were examined. The WHO report revealed that this eye disease can be cured. If right kind of treatment facilities are available. As such, he decided to establish an Eye Hospital.

The site at Rawalpindi, due to its accessibility to all parts of country was selected in 1984. The construction was started on 15 March 1985 and completed in April 1991. The hospital was inaugurated by Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of Pakistan and Patron-in-Chief Al Shifa Eye Hospital.



Shifa Trust on April 28, 1991. The hospital is a tertiary care and a reference center for ophthalmology. Four more hospitals have been established apart from Rawalpindi. They are at Kohat (KPK), Sukkur (Sindh), Muzaffarabad (AJK) and Chakwal (Punjab). Plan is afloat to establish one in Balochistan also. The patients are being treated free of cost. The doctors and their staff are recognized to be highly qualified in their field.

Social Sector Projects

After retirement Gen Jahan Dad Khan dedicated his life for up lifting of common people. For this purpose, he established following public sector projects: -

- a. Vocational Training Institute for boys and girls in his village i.e., Malhoo, District Attock
- b. Up-gradation of existing boys and girls schools to college level.
- c. Margalla Study Group was a literacy project. It consisted of eminent personalities. Guest speakers who were considered experts in their fields were called and in depth discussions were held. My father, i.e., Gen Jahan Dad Khan used to write the minutes and these were dispatched to Government functionaries for their information. However, their group discontinued after the demise of the General.
- d. General remained, President PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT from 2003 to 2006. During flood of 2005, PRC played an important role in the relief work.

Medals/Awards

- **Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Civil)**
- **Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military)**
- **Sitar-e-Basalat**
- **Proclamation by Mayor of City Houston (Texas) USA**
- **Certificate of appreciation by Mayor and Council for the Town of Markham, Canada**
- **Certificate of appreciation by Mr. Hussain A. Gezairy, Regional Director, WHO**
- **Certificate by Mr. Tallal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, President of Arab Gulf Programme for UNDP Organization (AGFUND)**

A photo in his civilian dress

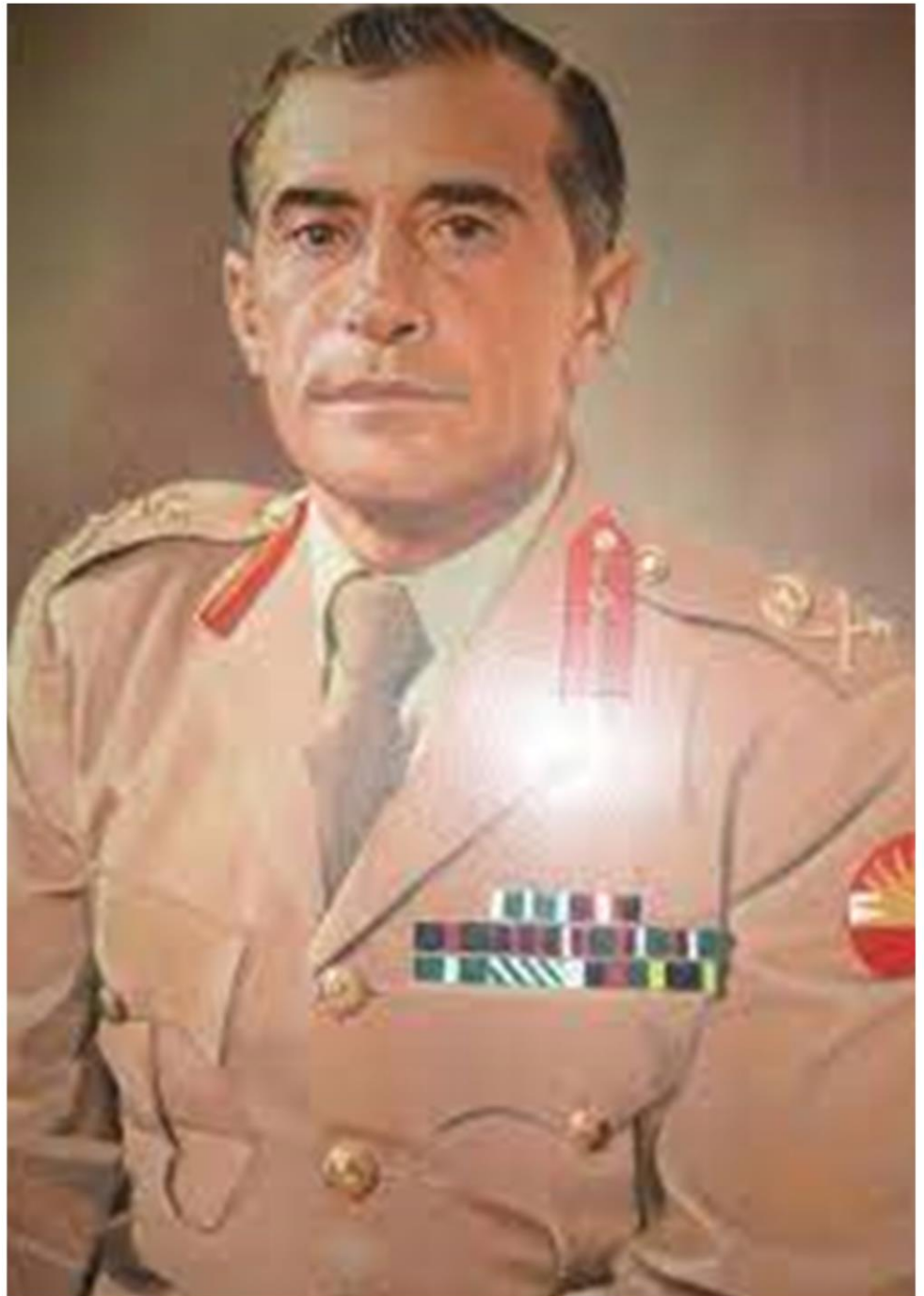


A photo in his Army Dress

When he was promoted as Lieutenant General

BOOKS

1. Pakistan - Leadership Challenges: Foreword was written by renamed lawyer Mr. S. M. Zafar. It was published by Oxford University Press, Karachi in 2001. An Urdu version was also printed.
2. Depart with a Smile: Foreword was written by Mr. Saeed Ahmed Qureshi, Former Secretary General and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. It was published and printed by Jang Publishers Press in 2005.
3. Al Shifa, A Beacon of Light: Foreword was written by Dr. Hussain El Geziary, Regional Director, WHO. It was published by Ahmed Publications in 2008





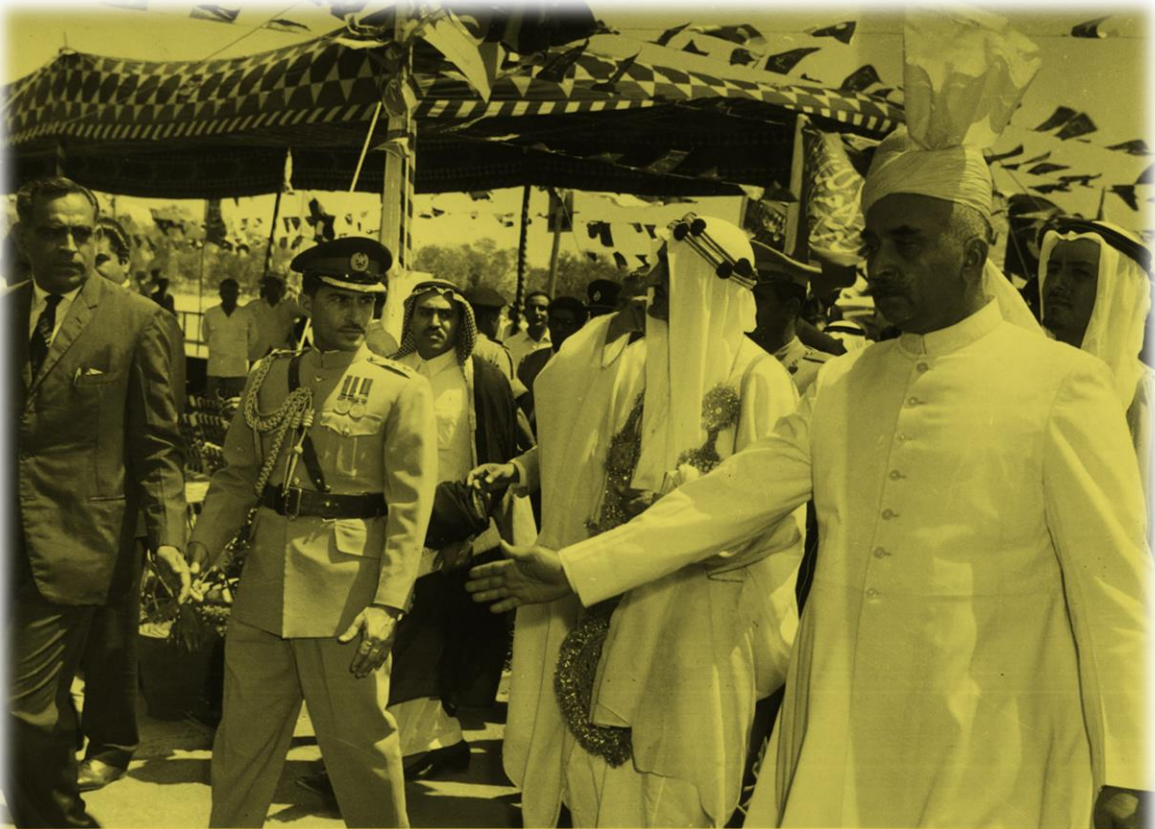
Prince Karim Aga Khan Visit to Governor House Karachi



Lt. Gen. Jahandad Khan as Military Secretary / Conducting Officer to Sheikh Mujeeb ur Rehman PM (Bangladesh) Islamic Summit Lahore 1974



Retirement Dinner by Gen. Zia ul Haq



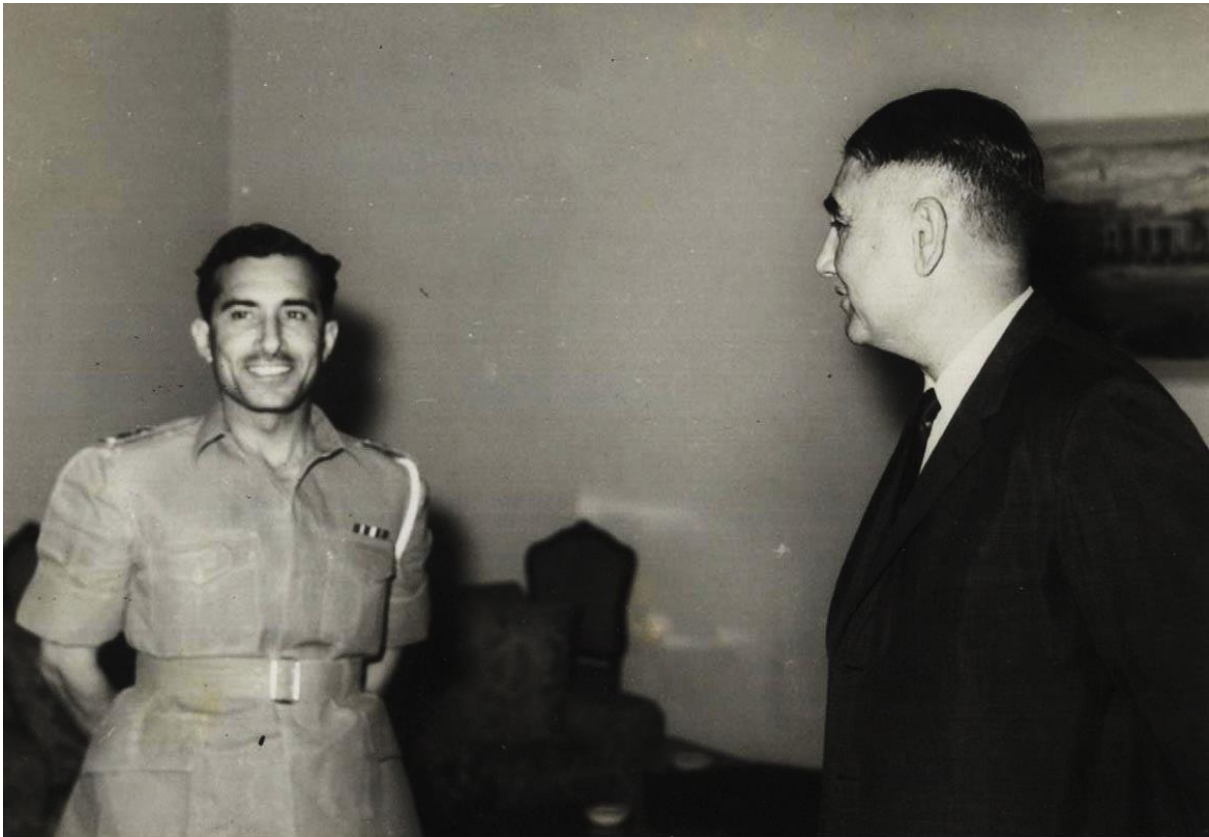
King Faisal of Saudi Arabia Visiting Pakistan



Vocational Training Center Malhoo



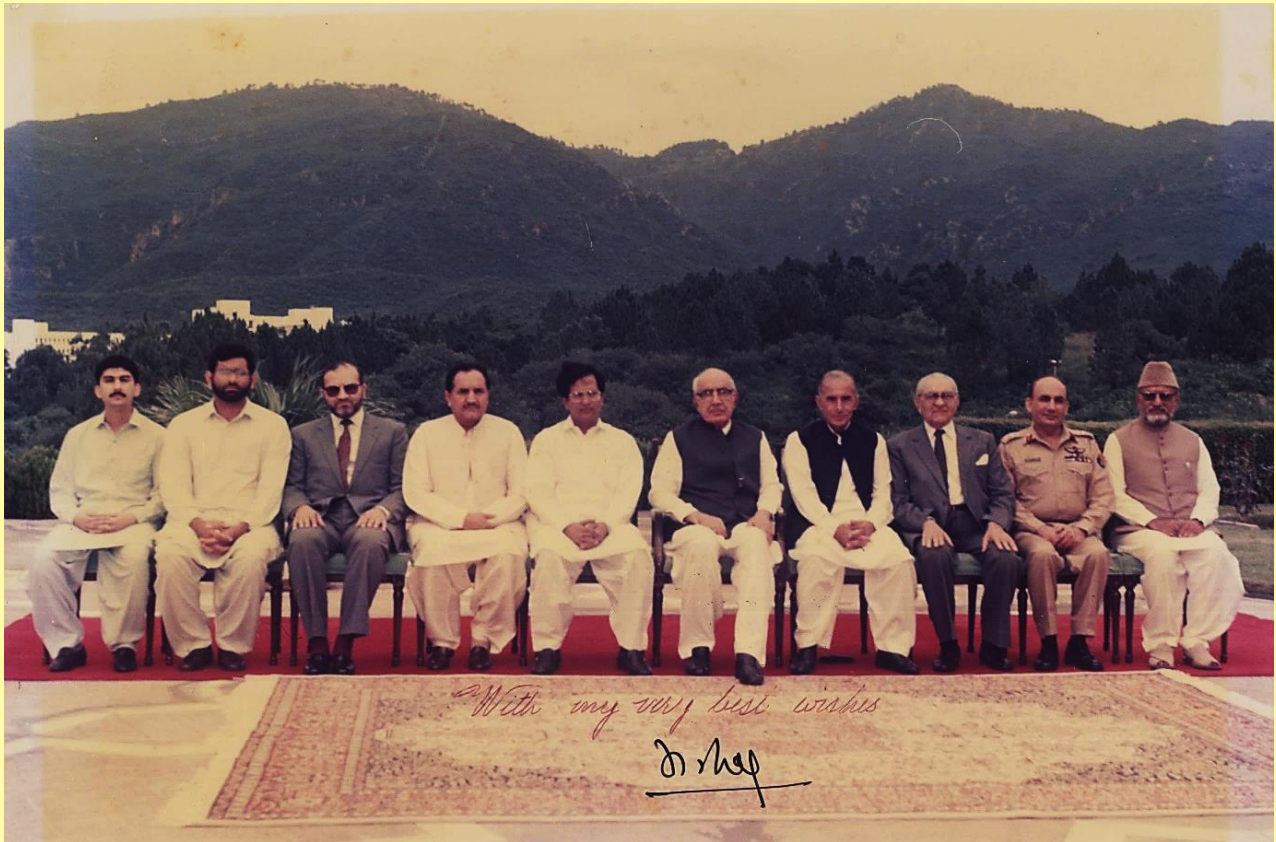
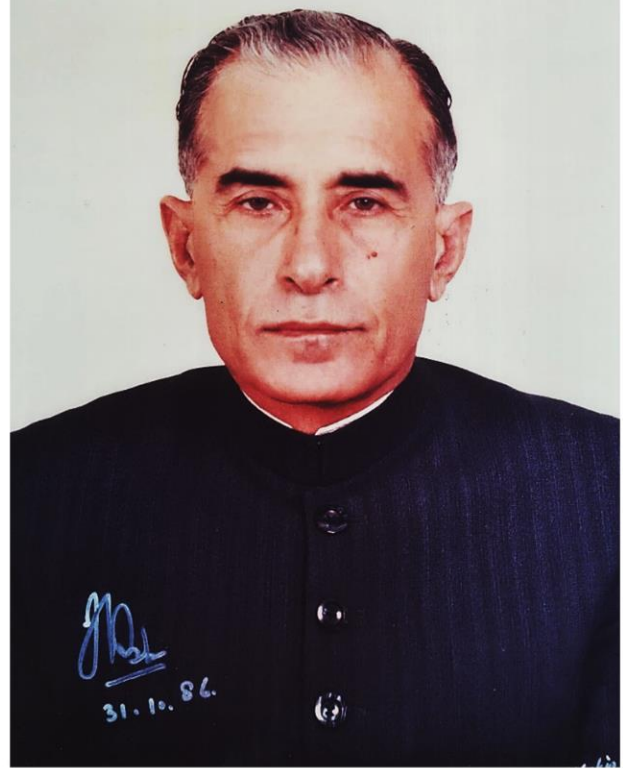
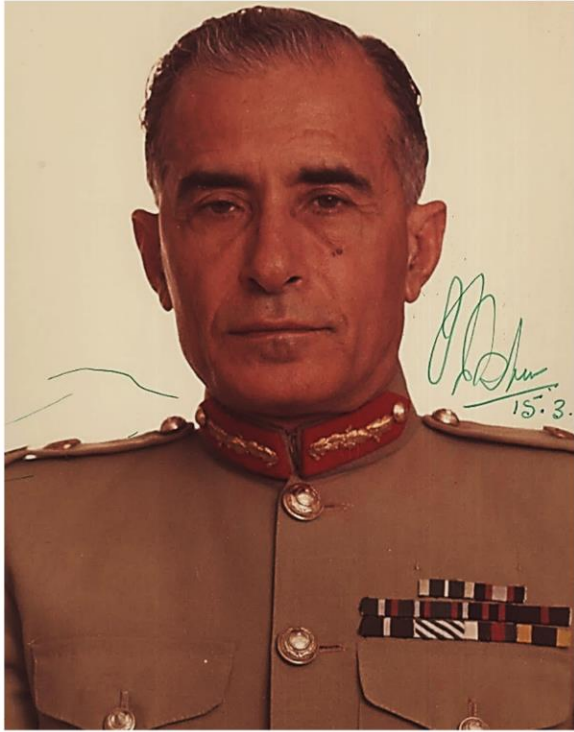
Receiving President Liu Shaoqi of China at Governor House Lahore 1966



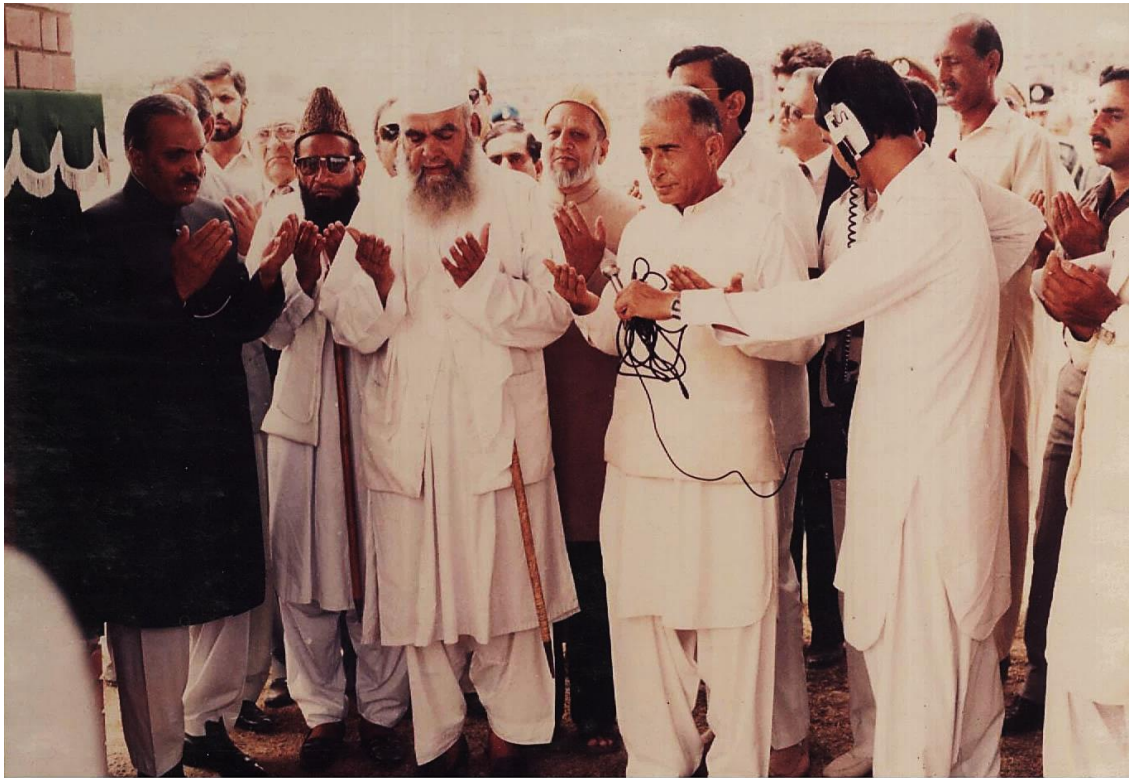
As Military Secretary to Gen. Musa Governor West Pakistan



With Prince Karim Aga Khan



Group Photo of Trustees of Al-Shifa Trust Signed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan



Ground Breaking Ceremony of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi by Gen. Zia ul Haq



Ground Breaking Ceremony of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi by Gen. Zia ul Haq



Lt Gen (R) Jahandad Khan as a Major



**Lt. Gen. Jahandad Khan was Military Secretary of
Nawab Malik Ameer M. Khan Governor West Pakistan**





He still has a smile while now in his old age

It is worth mentioning that Lieutenant General Jehandad Khan set up another worthy example of forging close unity with his comrades, by marrying his son Jehanzeb Khan with Rubeena Riaz, daughter of Major General Muhammad Riaz Khan. The marriage was solemnised on 11th April 1985. Unfortunately, Rubeena died in 2014. Jehanzeb is living his life, cherishing the memories of the happy and memorable moments that he lived with his wife. Jehanzeb has two children, eldest is daughter Mehreen, and a son Qasim Khan. Mehreen is married and works with Lewis International at Lahore. Qasim is also married and doing business at Islamabad. Jehanzeb talks about it with pride that while in service, he had hardly any time for his children, but now after retirement he is enjoying their company with great fondness and love. We wish them best of luck and happy life as a family. This was an example set for tying wedding knots between the children of our old colleagues.



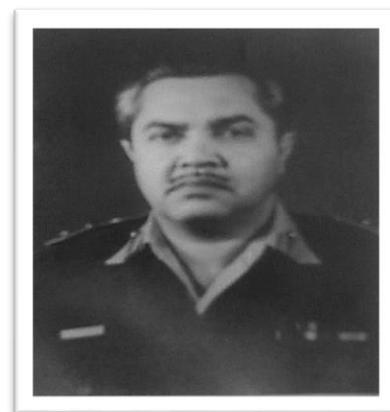


19. 2713 (GC-187) Brig Muzaffar Khan Malik

Muzaffar Khan Malik, son of Malik Fateh Khan, was born on 30.9.1928. He belonged to 8, Golf Course, Lahore. Upon commissioning, he joined 6th Lancers, which was located at Kohat. Lt. Col. (Later Lt. Gen.) Sahibzada Yaqub Ali Khan was the Commanding Officer. He won his admiration and confidence and this close relationship between the two lasted as long as they lived.

The career of Muzaffar Malik may be followed in some more details. Having held the United Nations assignment in West Irian, Indonesia in 1963 for a year, he took part in 1965 war as second-in-command in his parent unit 11 Cavalry. He

first took part in Chamb-Jaurian and then later in the Sialkot Sector. On the fateful day of 11th September, he was seriously wounded and admitted in CMH Sialkot. To the visitors, he could only growl in low tones, "You people hurt too much." He was addressing this to the Artillery officers. This, he later explained, implied that he was hit by an artillery shell. In recounting the relief in line operations, which 11 Cavalry carried out on the fateful night of 10/11 September to relieve 25 Cavalry and 24 Brigade from Phillaurah; with disbelief he mentioned, "When Lieutenant Colonel Nisar and Major Ahmad mentioned that they have been battling the Indian Armored Division for all these days of fighting, I just laughed it away. I thought they were joking and kidding." Soon he was shocked! Earlier at the dawn of fateful 11th September, Muzaffar climbed the top of the nearest mud house to have a look at the terrain and the general area to familiarize himself with the new area of operational responsibility. The sight totally baffled him! He saw the full force of the Indian Tanks approaching Phillaurah. He immediately came down to give the news to his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Aziz and Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Rahman of 1 Self Propelled Artillery Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Rahman started to adjust the Artillery fire on the advancing Enemy tanks and Infantry. And just at that moment an artillery shell of the Indian Guns fell right in the middle of their position. Abdul Rahman attained Shaadat instantaneously and the other two were seriously injured and evacuated to CMH Sialkot. This relief in line operation was the most haphazardly launched action and proved a total failure and disaster.



Though injured and partly disabled physically in 1965 war, Muzaffar continued his Army career. He was posted as instructor at the Command and Staff College, Quetta. A coveted position professionally and he lived up to the standards maintained there. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier in 1971 and was working in a special cell created in the President/ Chief Martial Administrative Secretariat. After the fiasco of 1971, when Mr. Bhutto took over, he came in close touch with him. He made a distinct mark with him on account of his sharp intellect, visionary perception, committed and dedicated approach. The Prime Minister picked him up and appointed him as Secretary, Ministry of Interior. A rare distinction and he equally made a mark for himself. He was later sent as Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab. It was a coveted and a challenging job. He earned the distinction of becoming the first retired army officer to hold this key job.

With the Military takeover of General Zia-ul-haq, he was removed from that position. He was put under a lot of pressure by General Zia and his coterie, to provide all the evidence of the rigging that he allegedly carried out at the instance of Mr. Bhutto during the elections. General Zia and Major General K.M. Arif were both very close friends of Muzaffar, being from the Armour. Through intense persuasion and trying to exploit their strong

and old links with him, they tried to pressurize him to provide the details and all the evidence as to how Mr Bhutto had rigged the elections. His conscience would not let him acquiesce in this motivated stance of the military regime. He gave a very candid, frank and straight reply, "I got no orders for any rigging and I issued out no such instructions." He genuinely believed that there was no organized rigging as such. As normal in all the elections in Pakistan, some individuals with local administrative support do manage to get the results of their choice. There was nothing beyond that. He felt strongly that the Army Authorities were trying to establish that as a part of their own agenda and aim. He withstood all pressures with dignity and fortitude. Later he was appointed as an Ambassador to Greece. He had two tenures in that capacity and represented his country with distinction. He got cancer of the prostate gland and he fought it out till the last days with full resolve, calmness and perseverance, despite all the pains and the agony that he went through.

In the final account of his life, it must be stated that he set the highest of standards of integrity and honesty. The only property that he had was the house that he inherited from his late father. He held all the key and important assignments in his illustrious career, but he maintained his own standards. He also did his family and his course proud.

H.E. Muzaffar Khan Malik



H.E. Muzaffar Khan Malik Presenting his Credentials to the King of Greece



Muzaffar Malik visiting his old unit



20. PA2715 (GC-233) Maj Gen Nasir-Ullah Khan Babar SJ and Bar

Nasir Ullah Khan Babar, son of Captain Sombat Khan, was born on 31.7.1929. He belonged to Pirpai, Nowshera. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery.

A Photograph with Soldiers of the 5th Light Sikh Infantry Battalion



He was born in Pirpai near Pabbi, Nowshera District of N.W.F.P Province of British India on 31.7.1929. His family is from Babar tribe of Pakhtuns who hailed from Kandhar Area of Afghanistan.

Babar's early education was from Presentation Convent School, Peshawar, 1935 to 1939. He later attended Burn Hall school, which was then located at Srinagar. This school was later shifted to Abbottabad after the partition of India in 1947. He then shifted to Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun from 1941 to 1947. After the creation of Pakistan he applied for Commission in the Pakistan Army and was selected for the 1st PMA, Long Course.

But before joining PMA, he voluntarily took part in the war for the liberation of Kashmir. He thus got his first Battlefield Inoculation at a very early age.

He graduated from PMA, Kakul, on 4th February 1950 and joined the arm of Artillery. In 1952 he opted for Air O.P. which later became Army Aviation. He along with Zafar joined Mahmud, who had already opted for No 1 Air Observation Post Flight, Royal Pakistan Air force in 1951, and to-gather they were amongst the pioneers of Air O.P. They prominently took part in the building of this new Arm of Army Aviation. The 1st PMA Long Course distinguished itself in all fields of training, command, Rotary Wing Initiation and operational deployment of this new Arm. In both 1965 and 1971 Wars, Babar and Mahmud, took part and performed with distinction.

With the livening of the start of Rann of Kutch conflict, the operational activities started. We had a good share of our participation. A Flight of 1 Army Aviation Squadron, one helicopter of 3 Aviation Squadron and some others from 1st PMA Long Course took active part in the limited operations. They saw full operational deployment and were committed in the area. Babar too volunteered to fly the Helicopter from his Squadron, which was placed there for support to 8 Division.

Babar's contributions to Army Aviation are also invaluable. He started his flying career on Auster aircraft and then on to L-19. His handling of fixed wing was rather mechanical and it seemed that his genius did not suit this type of flying. But where he excelled himself was in the flight of Rotary Wing Aircraft. In 1962 he was amongst the first batch of Pilots who went to USA for training on H-13 Helicopters as shown in the photographs above. He had many tales of his flying and other activities while in America, but they are best left out. His key role was in the raising of the First Helicopter Squadron in Pakistan. In the Army Aviation, he was the pioneer of helicopter flying and in this he excelled himself. The Rotary Action and its control best suited his genius and he added his unique daring to this. He raised 3 Army Aviation Squadron, and in its training and employment, he had the unique privilege of showing his best and all the initiative that he was full of. Initially, the Squadron was mostly in support of operations in the hilly terrain, and it was the Area of responsibility of 12 Division located in Murree. The flying conditions were demanding and in training the squadron in that type of terrain he excelled. He laid the pattern of himself undertaking all missions, training or otherwise, and set an example of personal initiative and bravery. He led the Squadron from the front. This spirit and professionalism of the squadron that he had built proved itself in 1965 war. The Pilots gave their most daring and professional account of themselves and earned the applause of all.

The launching of Gibraltar Force saw a full flurry of operational assignments in support of 12 Division by 3 Army Aviation Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Babar was fully active and involved in most of those missions personally himself. The operation "Grand Slam" had 1 Army Aviation Squadron put under control and command of this force. The very first day of the operation saw the unique act of bravery by Babar, when he landed his helicopter in the middle of the position occupied by a Company of Sikh Battalion, which had been by-passed by our own troops, but still holding out there. The way he made them all surrender without any weapons or troops, earned him an immediate award of SJ. The full account in Babar's own words is placed below: -

"3 Army Aviation Squadron (Rotary Wing) had been directed to provide a helicopter for the transportation of Brigadier ISHAQ (Bde Commander at RAWALAKOT), from Murree to Rawalakot on 1 Sep. 65 Since it was conventional to dispatch two helicopters on missions in AZAD KASHMIR, and in this case too, two helicopters were detailed. In the first helicopter were Lieutenant Colonel (Later Major General) NASIR ULLAH BABAR, and the 2 i/c Major (Later Lt Col) ABDUL LATIF AWAN. The second helicopter had Captain (Later Colonel) Late MOHD AKRAM and one other pilot.

On arrival at MURREE it was learnt that the PAKISTAN ARMY had launched an offensive operation in area CHAMB and that the leading elements (11 CAVALRY) were in the vicinity of the town of Chamb. The helicopters took off and on landing at RAWALAKOT the news remained the same that the leading elements were on the outskirts of CHAMB. After having finished their work, it was suggested to Brigadier ISHAQ that we should proceed to CHAMB. The Brigadier readily agreed as it would afford him an opportunity of meeting his Commander General AKHTAR MALIK. Resultantly, we left for CHAMB via BHIMBER (HQ 4 Sector) so as to obtain the latest information of the prevailing overall situation. At BHIMBER, the information remained the same. After partaking in a quick lunch, we left for PADHAR and landed in the gun position, in PADHAR Nullah. Since we neither had maps nor were familiar with the area, it was decided to ascertain the general direction of CHAMB from the GPO. At this stage, Brigadier ISHAQ decided to go back to MURREE as he had scheduled a meeting in the evening. He was sent back to MURREE in the other helicopter.

In the other helicopter, Self, Major Awan and Captain AKRAM took off and proceeded towards the indicated direction. Enroute, we located an enemy post, which had not been attacked and was on a flank and in considerable depth. When overhead, I asked Major AWAN to land so that we could pick up a couple of weapons as souvenirs. Major AWAN suggested that we involve in the venture on the return journey. Thus we proceeded further, but could not locate a suitable HQ or a Command vehicle and in consequence, Major AWAN, suggested that we return as it was getting late in the afternoon.

As we turned back, we learnt on the ARC-44, that Brig. (Later Lieutenant General) HAMID KHAN had been ambushed. We endeavored to inform them that if they could see the helicopter, they should direct us to their position, so that we could pick up Brigadier HAMID. While busy in this conversation, we again came over the same enemy position and I asked Major AWAN to land. He mentioned about some people being in the post, but being busy with ARC-44, I did not truly understand the implications.

As the helicopter touched down, I jumped out and with the only weapon one had (the flying cap-akin to the current golf cap), I asked the men to stand up. It then dawned on us that there was a very large body of troops, in the post (later it transpired that it was a company post of 5th Sikh Light Infantry and as customary in the Indian Battalions, they had the heavy Weapons-Mortars, Recoilless Rifles, and Light Machine Gun element from a RAJPUT Battalion). Still carried by the desire of souvenirs, I informed Major AWAN to land on the main bunker, while I walked into the post, got a couple of weapons and we would take off in the helicopter. Major AWAN, to his credit, convinced me that there may be a minefield around the post. I called out to a Sikh soldier to come over and on my ascertaining, he confirmed that there were mines along the barbed wire. I asked him to lead the way into the post. As I walked in, AWAN brought over the helicopter and landed on the main bunker. On inquiry, I was informed that they had been subjected to some shelling and there were a few wounded lying in the bunker. I moved into the bunker and lifting the blanket from each man, I found that there were a couple dead and another couple who had been injured. The Company Commander, Major NEGI had left the post on the plea that he was proceeding to fetch some rations. A subedar was in charge of the post.

On emerging from the bunker, I saw two enemy aircraft approaching from the SOUTH-possibly, having seen the helicopter. I immediately rushed and waived to Major AWAN about the impending air attack. The Indian aircraft made a pass over but did NOT open fire and turned around to make the next pass as to attack the helicopter/position. The helicopter had in the meantime taken off and left the position. I then ordered the men to go to the ground as the aircraft were again approaching on their mission. However, before they could reach the post they were hit by one F-86 Sabre and crashed ahead of the position.

I then directed the men to place their rifles on the parapet and move out. After having moved them out, I asked the Senior JCO to fall them in ranks. Realizing that the main objective i.e. souvenirs had been overlooked, I asked one of the OR's, to go into the position and fetch two rifles (brand new G IIs)! Observing that the Rajputs (Heavy Weapons Elements) were a little sullen and may react adversely, they were placed at the head of the column and the march towards the PAKISTAN Forward Defensive Lines was made. After about three miles, I met (Late) Major (Later Major General) ABDULLAH SAEED moving forward with his battalion. I requested him to take over the prisoners but he refused, indicating that his troops were moving forward towards CHAMB. This march continued and at dusk we arrived at MOEL post (total distance about 7 miles). Here we stopped and asked for some tea and as I was anxious about the helicopter, I made inquiries and was informed that it had safely reached KHARIAN. After tea the march started again towards PADHAR (The location of Brigade Head Quarter) about 3-4 miles away. It was dark, but there being a full moon, movement was possible. At about 2000 hrs we reached the Brigade HQ at PADHAR (now taken over by the HQ Corps Arty). I made the men sit in the volleyball ground and proceeded to the Officer's Mess. I met Late Brig Amjad Chaudhary and his staff and informed them about the men. They were in great disbelief and they came over to see the Indian troops (around 75-78) sitting in the ground. I once again made a request for vehicles to move the prisoners to BHIMBER, but the request was turned down on the plea that the Corps Arty was being re-deployed and in consequence NO vehicles were available. However, I was informed that some bridging equipment had been moved to TAWI and on return the vehicles would be made available.

At around 2 AM the vehicles arrived and I directed the men to show me their battalion embossing drill and they complied with great efficiency.

At around 4 AM we reached the Sector HQ at BHIMBER and the panic about escorts etc started. I handed over the men and went off to sleep. At around 10 AM, the helicopter arrived and brought me back to DHAMIAL, along with the souvenirs. Late Colonel (Later Lieutenant General) AB AWAN received us and admonished me for recklessness. I presented one of the rifles to the Army Aviation Mess and kept the other for myself (still remains with me).

The OR's when interrogated by the Intelligence, narrated the events. Later, that evening at the President's Press Conference, the Director General ISI Brigadier RIAZ brought the event to the notice of the President and requested that the news be released to the Press, as it would help in raising the morale of our troop.

Since, I had NOT contacted any one in person; varied reports of the incident were published in the Press-some indicating that it was a PAF helicopter Subsequently, in recognition of this singular act, I was awarded the Sitara-e-Jurat. PS It later transpired that the position was a Company post (PAUR) and as nature acts in its own mysterious way, I was granted another immediate award of SITARA-E-JURAAT (within 100 yards of the area) in the 1971 war. At that time, I was Commanding 111 Brigade."

When Mahmud met him later, he described it, initially as an act of stupidity on his part, which he later turned it into one of personal bravery by marching a group of some 75 enemy soldiers all by himself, and that too at night, over a distance of some ten miles.

Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar presents rather a very unique example; in his service in the profession of arms, in the civil or even as a politician. With his intuitive and bold sense of command, he made a mark for himself for being the recipient of SJ Bar. A very rare distinction indeed! As the Inspector General Frontier Corps and later as the Governor of the Frontier Province, his knowledge of the area, the tribes, his contact with the Malik's and the reading of their history and traditions, is all unmatched. His uncanny vision of the relationship

between Pakistan and Afghanistan, his close links with his contacts in Afghanistan; coupled with his pragmatic, enlightened and sincere approach in building bonds between the two countries is also remarkable. He is rightly an asset for the country. Even as a politician, though he is not cut and suited for this still immature but essential class of our society; he has left his indelible marks. No doubt volumes could be written to describe all the details. We suffice to record here only what is outstanding or which highlights his typical characteristics or nature.

In the 1971 war, he was posted as Commander of Artillery in 23 Division under Major General Iftikhar Janjua. When the war started, 111 Brigade was without the Brigade Commander, Brig Rahim-ud-Din, as he was busy carrying out the Court Martial of Mujeeb-ur-Rahman at Rawalpindi. Despite the pressing hard of the GOC, he did not rejoin to take over the Command of his Brigade. So Babar volunteered to take over this Brigade and to take them to the Battle. In the attack while he was leading his troops wearing his Peak Cap rather a helmet on his head, that he was hit by an Artillery Shell, and was severely injured and evacuated to CMH Jhelum. Lt Gen Shaukat Hassan, personally came to Jhelum to carry out multiple surgeries, to take out all the splinters from his shoulders and arms. With his skillful surgeries the damage was minimized, but still he did not regain the full movement of his left arm. To compensate for that, he always carried his baton in the left arm.

FATA in the Limelight: It is as the Inspector General Frontier Corps that he first stood out as a man and the soldier. He gave this force the drive, a clear policy and the direction that it so needed. His enthusiasm at times ringed around as an adventure. He faced it all. His close links with the Army Aviation came in very handy for him and proved a great help and strength for him. He pushed Brigadier Mahmud, who was commanding the Army Aviation at that time, to come and join him on many of those escapades, which verged at times, as adventurous and somewhat reckless missions. But they all ended safely, without any mishap. The best part is that they mostly achieved great goals and results.

The only time that we had a look at the future of FATA area and a clear policy on our relationship with Afghanistan, was the period when Mr. Bhutto was the Prime Minister. In this he was helped and influenced to a great extent by Brigadier Babar as the IGFC initially, and by him as the Governor later. This was the only time that the Prime Minister was undertaking regular visits to these areas. He was under taking bi-annual trips, which would start from Chitral and end up in Southern Waziristan. It was in one of those visits that some momentous decisions were taken which had far reaching effects. Sitting in the mess at Parachinar, in the company of a very small group, Mr. Bhutto was engaged in some light conversation with Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, his Interior Minister and the Governor Mr. Aslam Khattak. Brigadier Babar while changing the topic asked Mr. Bhutto a very serious question. He inquired from him if the Durand Line was the International Border between Pakistan and Afghanistan or not? Mr. Bhutto promptly replied, "What is the doubt? Why are you asking this question?" On this Babar's query was as to why are we not sitting there? Suddenly there was a furor in that small group. Mr. Aslam Khattak, was strongly of the opinion that it would be a big shift in our policy on FATA and the Durand Line. He clearly was against this. Even the Foreign Office representative was of the same opinion and gave his apprehensions that it will have serious bearings in our relationship with Afghanistan. At that time Afghanistan, under Sardar Daud, was already involved in its old time demand for Pakhoonistan and even some subversive activities in the territories of Pakistan. It was suggested, that any movement towards the Durand Line will further attract hostile reaction from the Afghan Regime.

It was opined that even Quaid-i-Azam in his own life time, pulled out all troops from FATA and let the tribesmen have their own Jirga system to govern the area. It did not take Mr. Bhutto long to make up his mind. He clearly gave Brigadier Babar the permission to move his troops to the Durand Line at his choosing.

This further encouraged Brigadier Babar. He gave the reference to the ongoing demand of Pakhtoonistan which was being actively supported from across the Durand Line, and the subversive acts, including the bomb blasts, being unleashed at the behest of the Regime of Sardar Daud. In his opinion, he said, "The only way that these can be stopped is by creating the same situation across in their territory. We should prepare a plan to pay them back in the same coin. Many people in Afghanistan are already against the despotic rule of Sardar Daud and are in contact with me." This came as a complete bomb shell to some of those present. Again, it was Mr. Aslam Khattak, who was very agitated in his mind, and was the first to response. He bluntly put it in a rather strong language and frankly stated, "Babar is a mad man. He will certainly push this country to war against Afghanistan." There were other critics of this plan also. This was also opposed by Khan Abdul Qayum Khan. Mr. Bhutto listened to all the views quietly and passed no remark.

Later, upon arrival in Rawalpindi, the Prime Minister summoned Brigadier N.K. Babar to his office. In an exclusive meeting restricted to only three people, which included himself, General Tikka Khan and Brigadier Babar, he gave his tacit approval of the plan that Babar had suggested at Parachinar. It was kept very confidential and Brigadier Babar was given a free hand.

Having got the full backing and support from the COAS and the authority of the nod from the Prime Minister, Brigadier Babar was truly in his own elements. It took him no time to post his troops right at the Durand Line. Their arrival was welcomed by the Tribal Malik's and the people of the area. They had seen no semblance of the authority of the Government since the departure of the British. Babar also fully activated all his contacts in Afghanistan. It represented a very wide range of the spectrum across the divide of ethnic, location and background wise. There were some 2,000 of them. They included Ahmad Shah Masud, Dostum, Gul Baddin Hekyamat Yar, Professor Rabbani, Maulvi Khalis and many others. They were all picked up from along the Durand Line. They came by various means. Some air lifted in helicopters, others on vehicles and other modes of transportation, and some even trekking across the border. They were sent to Cherat with the SSG and trained there as the new force of the IGFC. When ready and trained they were launched first in the Paktia Province. That was enough. It gave a clear signal and message to the Afghan regime that the tables have been turned and that they were on the receiving end now. Sardar Daud lost no time in rushing to Rawalpindi to meet with Mr. Bhutto. He clearly told him that there is no longer the demand for Pakhtoonistan and that the Durand Line is the International Frontier. Sardar Daud also expressed his willingness to sign a formal agreement on those lines. The Generals moved in and staged the coup and unfortunately this agreement never saw the light of the day. This is another sordid chapter of our history. It is beyond the scope of our course history and can be best left for some other time and an appropriate occasion.

Equally important were the contacts made and the personal relationship built with other noble, patriotic, loyal and the powerful Maliks of the tribal belt, both at the military and political levels. Many others who had developed estranged relationship with the authorities in Pakistan were won over. The process of economic integration, education and other development activities of this isolated region were also set in. It was initially as Brigadier N.K.Babar, the IGFC, and later as the Governor, Major General (Retd) Babar, who had a major hand and play in all these measures. He enjoyed the full political support and the patronage of the political government.

All these activities were suddenly interrupted with the advent of the military regime. Major General (Retd) Babar, as Governor had no interest in politics. Mr. Bhutto had tried his best to influence Babar to join Pakistan People's Party. Much to the annoyance of Mr. Bhutto, he had flatly refused to do so. On the evening of the day that the Martial Law was declared, Babar called Mahmud to tell him in advance that he is formally

announcing his decision to join PPP. It was suddenly out of the blue and was a surprise. Mahmud asked him as to why was he being so stupid to join this political party at this stage. He explained it to him that the odds were stacked against him. But the reply given by Babar was the true reflection of the strength of his character and the commitment to the cause he believed in. He said, "It is my moral obligation to do so now. In these troubled times the party and Mr. Bhutto needs all my sympathies and support."

He remained firm on his commitment even till to-day. He never wavered. He was jailed; at times even kept in solitary confinement. In the peak of the summer, the place of his captivity was changed to the scorching heat of places like Bannu and D.I.Khan. It never could break him; but instead kept strengthening his resolve and will.

Even in active politics he made a mark for himself. His friends and foe, they all alike admire his strength of character, honesty, integrity and all what makes a man to stand up as a giant amongst the pygmies. He had two periods of active governance with Benazir Bhutto as the Prime Minister. First it was as an advisor and in the second tenure he was her Interior Minister.

He was a great sobering influence in both tenures of Benazir Government. If Benazir had followed his guidance more rather than listening to many other cronies like her other Ministers and Advisors, the performance of her government would certainly been much better. As the Interior Minister he handled many assignments outside the domain of his Ministry. In particular significance; his handling of Afghanistan situation would have been most spectacular but for the ill-advised intervention of Mr. Farooq Leghari, who was the President of Pakistan. A brief description will help to explain. Talibans had emerged as the dominant force in Afghanistan. They had spread their control and influence all the way from Khandhar to Kabul and were threatening to move north. At this stage Major General Babar, prevailed on them not to proceed beyond Kabul. He also advised the Prime Minister not to recognize this regime, till there is complete peace. His basic interest was that he wanted to keep the Federal Structure of Afghanistan intact. He had personal influence and rapport with both the Taliban and the leadership of Northern Alliance. He shuttled between Mullah Omar and several other leadership like Ahmad Shah Masud and Dostum. He had finally brokered a draft agreement between the two sides. At a meeting held under the President, Mr. Farooq Leghari on 3 November 1996, some very important decisions were taken. This meeting was attended by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Major General Babar the Interior Minister, the Director General ISI Lieutenant General Naeem Rana, COAS General Jehangir Karamat and the Foreign Secretary Mr. Najm-ud= Sheikh. In this meeting the draft agreement was approved and Babar was authorized to proceed to Kabul on 5 November to get the agreement signed between the two sides. Ironically Mr. Farooq Leghari dismissed the Government of Benazir Bhutto on 4 November 1996; at whose instance and for what purpose, only he can throw light on. But the worst still was that he totally lost sight of and forgot all about the agreement. A repetition of General Zia-ul-Haq period of what he had done earlier. Is this just a coincident or there is more to it than what meets the eye. The History of this region would have been quite different if this had been implemented. It was not to be!

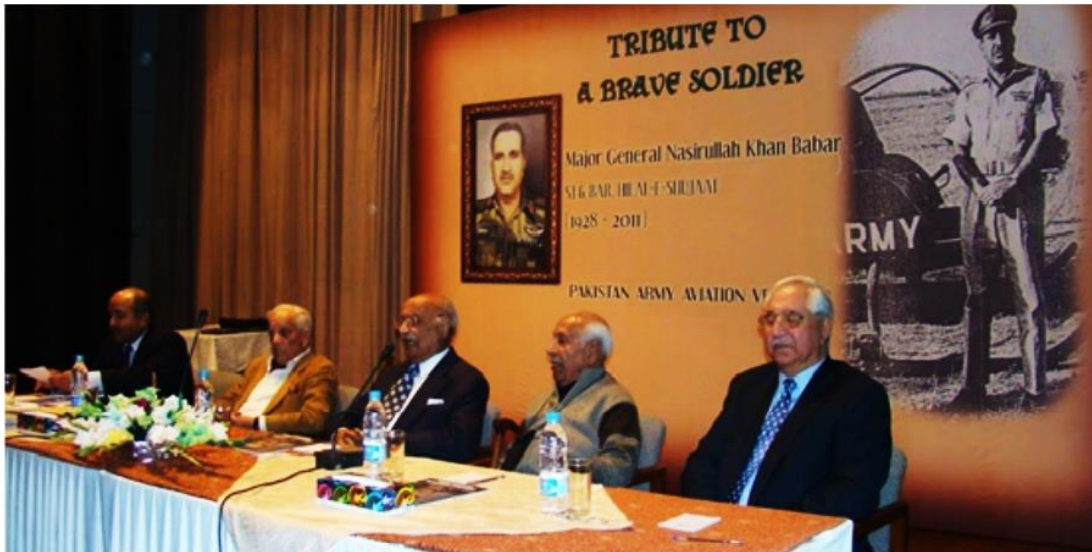
It would be a fitting tribute to both Benazir Bhutto and Major General N.K. Babar to record that the last political figure that Benazir met, only a night before her assassination, was Babar. At a meeting in Peshawar, she clearly confided in him that she was totally disillusioned and disenchanted with General Musharraf. She declared her intentions not to work with him. This relieved Babar as he was very critical of her contacts with General Musharraf.

It was in late, 2009 that Babar had a stroke and was admitted in CMH, Peshawar. Mahmud went to see him in the hospital and he learnt that after the stroke his evacuation to the hospital was delayed as Mrs Babar had

no help available in the house at that time; due to this delay his condition was not very stable. In consultation with the family and the doctors, it was decided that he should be transferred to AFIC, Rawalpindi. His condition improved slightly and he was taken back to his house in Peshawar.

We were very hopeful that he will be able to attend our Diamond Jubilee Ceremony to be held on 4th February, 2010, Kakul, but suddenly his condition deteriorated and he could not make it for this important function. We all missed him. He remained in that condition, but mentally, he was still alert and remembered everything. The main problem was that he could not speak clearly or move freely. He lived in this state for another one year and passed away on 10th January, 2011 at Peshawar. Mahmud was in PMA, Kakul, in connection with some work of renovation of our Diamond Jubilee Monument, when the news was broken to him early in the morning. He left for Pirpai immediately and while enroute, requested Major General (Retd) Muhammad Azam Khan (Ex-Army Aviation), to bring two wreaths for him, one on behalf of Army Aviation and another on behalf of Veterans of Pakistan, of which he was a very active member. On arrival, Mahmud inquired, hoping that he would be given a Full Military Funeral as he was a recipient of SJ and Bar. There was no senior serving Army Officer available, but only a small contingent of some ASC unit from Nowshera was present, to suggest that Military Funeral will be provided. When the burial ceremony took place, Mahmud was shocked to see that it was only a hotchpotch of a ceremony. It was painfully observed that the Army High Command had totally neglected to honour their one of the bravest of soldiers. When Mahmud asked Lt Gen (Retd) Ali Kuli, the President of VOP, to protest with GHQ, the answer given by CGS was that they had given the instructions to the Corps Commander, Peshawar to do the needful. It was hardly the way to ensure that befitting tributes should be paid to their finest of soldiers!

Later, Mahmud arranged a Memorial Service for him at Islamabad Club on behalf of 1st PMA Long Course, Army Aviation and VOP, to eulogize the services rendered by him. Mahmud requested Air Marshal (Retd) M. Asghar Khan to preside over the Ceremony and he readily agreed to do so. Over 400 of his friends, colleagues and other admirers attended the function. Even some Tribal Maliks from FATA also came and delivered very emotional speeches. Some glimpses of that are placed below: -



Air Marshal M. Asghar Khan (Retd), Presiding the function. Author is 2nd from left, Islamabad Club.



My wife, Omera Mahmud, on the left with Mrs. Babar on her left, Islamabad Club



Our Instructor Lt. Gen. Malik Abdul Majeed left, along with some of our other colleagues. Islamabad Club.



Another view of the gathering, Islamabad Club.

Major General (Retd) N.K.Babar Taking Oath as Governor N.W.F.P.

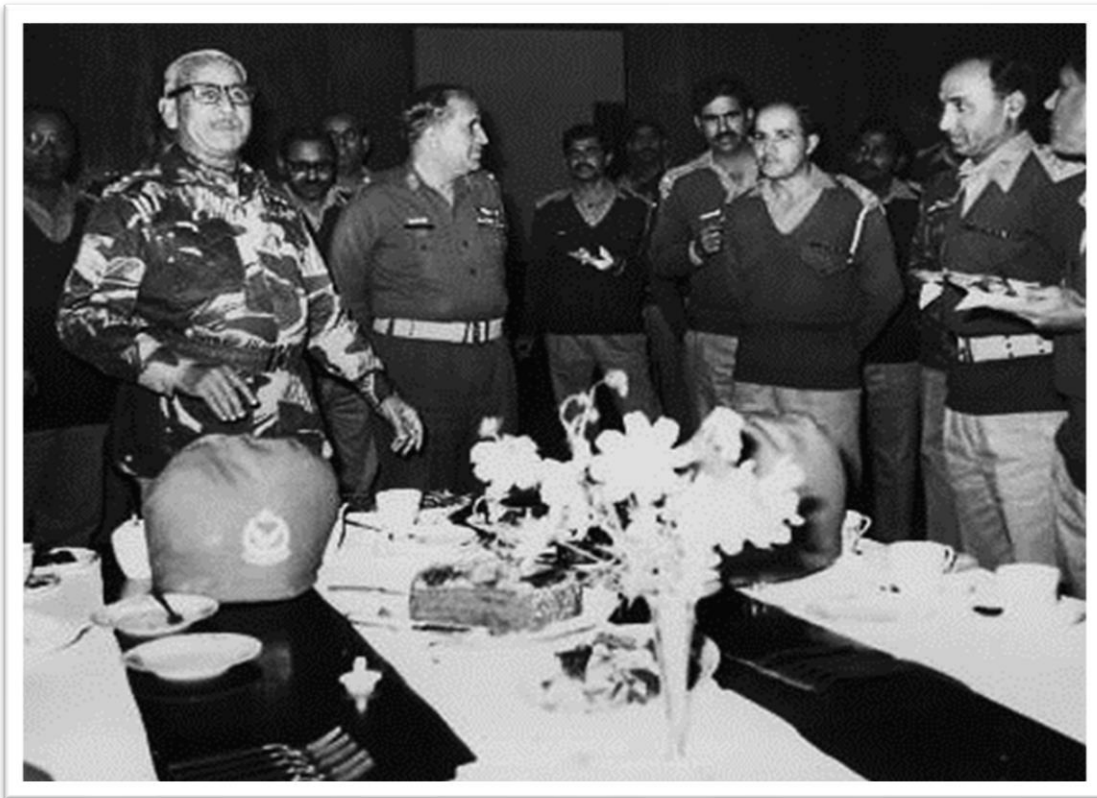
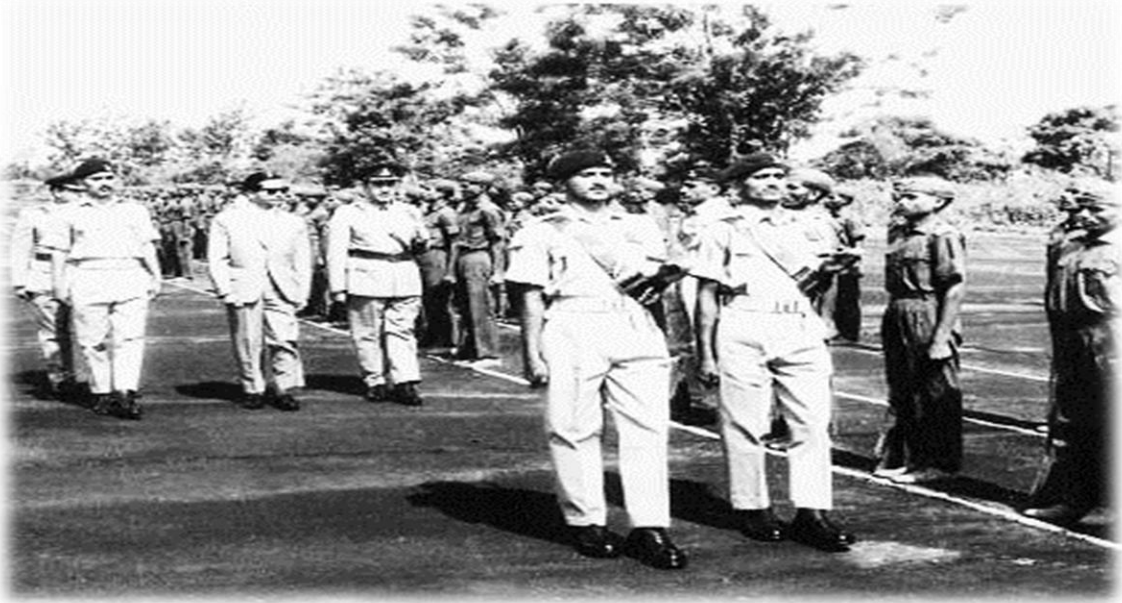


***Major General (Retd) N.K. Babar
as Governor N.W.F.P***

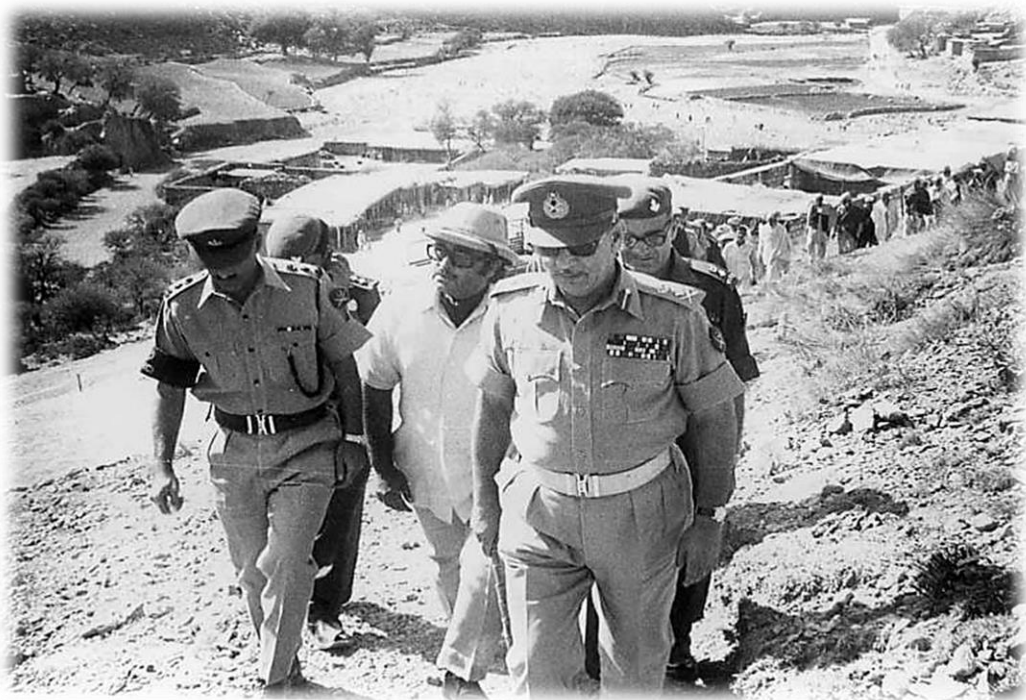
***Major General (Retd) N.K. Babar with P.M. Benazir Bhutto
at the Mausoleum of Hazrat Zainab, Damascus***



Major General N.K. Babar Reviewing a Guard of Honour



General Tikka Khan, C.O.A.S, Visiting 14 Division



COAS General Tikka Khan in an exercise area of 14 Division



***Major General N.K. Babar signing the visitors book
on his departure from 14 Division***



COAS Gen Tikka Khan on a visit to 14 Division



***Maj Gen N.K. Babar (Retd) receiving a shield
from 14 Division Artillery***



***The Prime Minister Mr. Z.A. Bhutto being received
on one of his regular visits to FATA***



***Prime Minister Mr. Z.A. Bhutto arriving in a Helicopter
on his visit to the Tribal Territory***



Major General N.K. Babar (Retd) bidding farewell to his formation



General Babar being received as Governor at D.I. Khan



Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto and Ruler of Abu Dhabi on a visit to the Frontier Corps

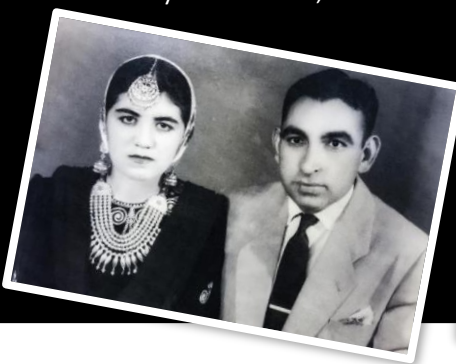


21. PA 2716 (GC-239) Brig Hayat Ullah

Hayat Ullah, S/O Watte Khan, was born on 8.5.1928. He belonged to Jandola, South Waziristan. Upon commissioning, he joined the 13th Frontier Force Regiment.

Brigadier Hayat Ullah

By Jamshed, Rukhsana and Amjad



Brigadier (Retd) Hayat Ullah was born on the 8th of May 1928, in a very small village, Khirgi, roughly 3 miles from Manzai Fort. A British military outpost first established in 1919 during the Third Anglo-Afghan War. His father had extensive businesses across undivided India at that time. Unfortunately, Hayat lost his mother at the age of 4 and, shortly afterward, lost his father in a car accident in Quetta. One of the most amazing facts about him that still amazes us is his sheer determination as an orphaned child, walking 7 miles every day to school in Jandola, in a hostile environment surrounded by people with no inclination for education another important British post throughout the Waziristan campaign.



Village Khirgi and the 7-mile trek to Jandola across Tank Zam River



After completing his primary education in Jandola, he completed matriculation in Dera Ismail Khan and then intermediate studies at Islamia College Peshawar before being selected for the Military Academy at Kakul



As a GC, PMA, Kakul



Military Career

Upon graduating from the PMA in 1950, he joined 7 FF Rifles (CO KES) as a Subaltern engaged in various courses during this time and, after being promoted to the rank of Captain, he was retained as an adjutant and company commander while stationed in Kohat and Samana.

While remaining an adjutant at 7 FF (EKWANJA), the unit moved to Kohirata, AJK under the command of the famous General Bahadur Sher.

He fondly remembered his time in Kashmir, often telling us stories about General Sher, his dear friend Captain Qazi Majeed, their hunting trips, and his pets, dog Jack and monkey Tom.

After a fruitful and commendable time with his battalion, he was first posted to the FF Rifles center at Abbottabad as an adjutant and later on posted to the PMA as an instructor under the tutelage of the famous General Shaukat Ali Shah around late 50's



He was promoted to the rank of major and married our mum, Husna, in 1958, daughter of the late Colonel Hashim Khan Mehsud of the 17th Punjab Regiment.

He was then sent to Turkey with General Faiz Ali Chishti for a language course. He used to share many memories of his loving interactions with Turks and his travels to Syria, Lebanon and Turin in Italy

Upon returning from a successful trip to Turkey, he was posted to 10 FF Regiment at Kharian and Jhelum before being selected for the Staff course at the Staff College Quetta.



At the staff college with his friend and course mate, Major General Safdar Butt



Thereafter he got posted as GSO-1 (Training) to GHQ. He was promoted Full Colonel and took over as Deputy Director Military Training (DDMT) at GHQ Rawalpindi.

Two additions were made to the family: Jamshed, born in Jacobabad, and Rukhsana, born in Lala Musa.

After successfully completing the staff course he was posted as GSO-II (operations) to the 8th Division under General Tikka Khan. Here he, along with others planned "The Rann of Kutch" operations.

He got promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel and raised a new battalion, 28 FF Regiment at Quetta on February 22, 1966, choosing the motto, "God and our Bayonets".

Eventually, also had the honour of commanding 16 FF Regiment in East Pakistan and then Bannu.



He was then promoted to Brigadier and took command of a Brigade at Kharian Cantt. He later on participated in the 1971 war at the Lahore front commanding a Brigade that had been detached from the newly raised 17th Division and attached to the 10th Division.

He left the army in 1972/73 and joined his family's transport business, started by his father in the late 1920s. As a family, he took up permanent residence in Dera Ismail Khan to be close to the ancestral South Waziristan of both him and our mother.

He and our mother however, regularly attended the 1st PMA reunion gatherings. These were also attended by the family whenever possible.

He passed away peacefully and surrounded by his loving family on the 27th of July 2020.

In early to mid-2020, he was honored as the 'Colonel of the battalion' for 28 FF.



Hayat Ullah with his Course Mates at the Annual Get-together on 4th February 2019, Garrison Officers Mess, Rawalpindi



He was known for his exceptional work ethic and diligence. Honesty and forthrightness were the guiding principles that defined Hayat Ullah. His sacrifice and affection for his family and children are truly how we remember him. He understood that education was the key to a successful life, and he was willing to work hard to provide his children with the best educational opportunities available. His absolute dedication to providing this meant that we had to be away from our parents for most of our childhood and young adulthood. Our father understood the value of hard work and how it can lead to success in life. To promote education for women in his native Jandola, he got approved a middle school, now a college for girls.

We hope we did not disappoint him. Jamshed recently retired as a Chief Engineer in OGDC, Rukhsana is a trained histopathologist and now Psychiatrist with the US Veterans administration based in Charleston SC, USA and Amjad is Hematologist at the University of Galway, Ireland and the director of the stem cell transplant unit.

He was honest in all his dealings and taught us the importance of honesty and integrity. He was forthright in his opinions and beliefs and was not afraid to stand up for what he thought was right.

Above all, he understood the importance of showing love and affection towards his family, which helped in building a strong bond between us.

Our father was truly an exceptional human being. We as children were fortunate to have him as a role model, we loved him, will love him always and will miss him surely.



L to R: Jamshedpur, Rukhsana, Hayat, Husna and sitting at the front Amjad, 2019

With all the Grand children



L to R (Standing): Ali, Adam, Daniyal, Haroon, Fateh and David sitting between Hayat and Husna 2018.



With daughter in law, Hilary, 2003

A Farewell letter by David Hayat, Youngest grandson, 7th of May 2023

by David Hayat age 9 years
 Abu was my grandfather. He was 92 when he died. I miss him a lot. He came to visit us in Ireland every year for 3 months.

We went to Pakistan to see him every year twice.

He gave us lots of hugs & kisses.

He liked to read our palms and he told us we would live long lives and that we were clever. He always asked for a half cup of tea.

He had his favourite chair in his son's house. It was a green recliner and it was very comfy.

Whenever we were leaving on the plane Abu would always wave goodbye. When he was young he was in the army. He got shot in the back and it bounced off his spine and he was ok.

He didn't like people being late.

He used to say - "the hour of departure is fast approaching."

We all miss Abu a lot

The installation of Brigadier Hayat Ullah as Colonel-Chief of 29 F.F.



Brigadier Hayat Ullah



22. PA 2717 (GC-237) Lt Col Ishtiaq Ali Gilani

Ishtiaq Ali Gilani S/O Nadir Ali Shah was born on 6.6.1926. He belonged to Nadir Manzil, Asya, Peshawar. On Commissioning he joined 8th Punjab Regiment.



23. PA 2718 (GC-175) Maj Mir Aziz Alam Khan

Mir Aziz Alam Khan S/O Nawabzada Mir Saeed was born on 5.5.1930. He belonged to Nawab Palace Suret, Gujrat, Bombay, India. He migrated to Pakistan and was selected for 1st PMA Long Course, which he joined at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined 12th Frontier Force Regiment.



24. PA 2719 (GC-199) Brig Mohammad Ahmad SJ

Mohammad Ahmad S/O of Syed Mohammad Hassan was born on 5.5.1929. He Was Resident of 35 S.C. Basur Road, Allahabad, India. He was selected for IMA Course, but on Partition he opted for Pakistan and was selected for 1st PMA Long Course. He migrated to Pakistan and joined PMA, Kakul. On Commissioning he Joined Guides Cavalry.

His early education was in schools where ever his father was posted. Did his F.Sc from Government Inter College, Allahabad (now Prayag Raj). Applied for the army before partition and was selected. Later, Muslim boys from his batch were asked whether they wished to stay in India or go to Pakistan. He opted for Pakistan and joined 1st PMA Long Course in February 1948. He was commissioned on 4 February 1950, and joined Guides Cavalry (FF). After spending few years in the regiment he was posted to Armoured Corps Centre, Nowshera (1954 - 55).

Muhammad Ahmed did Staff Course from Quetta in 1960, and was posted as Brigade Major 5 Armoured Brigade (1961 - 62). On raising of 25 Cavalry at Kharian on 9th June 1962, Major Ahmad was posted to this unit. First Commanding Officer of the Regiment was Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmed Khan, SJ (later brigadier,

known as Kaka Nisar). Muhammad Ahmed did Tank Technology Course from UK (1964 - 65). In 1965 War, he was B Squadron Commander in 25th Cavalry. His unit was the first to face the Charging Indian Armoured Division at Chawinda on the morning of 8th September 1965. To his credit, his 14 tanks not only stemmed the advance of the massive charge of Indian 16 Cavalry and 17 Horse, but he rather led a bold counter attack against them. This forced these two leading Armoured Regiments of the enemy and all others following them, to start their withdrawal. In the meantime, the rest of the 25 Cavalry also reached the area and with the combined effort; this single unit all by themselves not only inflicted heavy loss on enemy advancing units, but by the evening made this huge force of one Armoured Division, supported by three Infantry Divisions, recoil back to their positions across the International Borders, from where they had proudly debouched in the early hours of 8th September 1965. This is just a brief mention of the whole day's battle. The more detailed account will be given later. Major Mohammad Ahmad was awarded Sitar-e-Jurat for his bold and decisive action of the day and 25 Cavalry were in all recipients of another 4 awards of Sitara-e-Jurat in all the other actions they gallantly fought in this Sector. During the subsequent actions Major Ahmud's tank was hit and caught fire. He managed to save himself, but his face and feet were burnt for which he was admitted in the C.M.H. Sialkot. He was then posted to the Tactical Wing in the School of Armour at Nowshera, where he served for a short while. When he recovered from his injuries, he was posted to command 25th Cavalry in Kharian (1966 - 67). He did War Course in 1968, and remained on the faculty of War Wing from 1969 to 71. Commanded 8 Independent Armoured Brigade Group in 1971 War. Posted as Chief Instructor to Command and Staff College, Quetta (1973 - 76). Commanded 7 Armoured Brigade from 1976 to 77.

Brig Ahmed took early retirement, after being superseded in 1977. After retirement he served as Managing Director, Punjab Urban Transport Cooperation (1978 - 80) and Resident Manager Fauji Fertilizer Co (1982 - 91).

Brigadier Ahmed's close relations in army include, his father-in-law, PA 172 Lieutenant Colonel Syed Naiyer Raza, 11th Cavalry (FF). He was born on 4 September 1918 and commissioned on 5 October 1940. Served as Military Secretary to Governor General Malik Ghulam Muhammad (details about him will be covered in the category of pre independence Armoured Corps officers).

His maternal uncle served in 9 Jat Regiment, British Indian Army during World War II. He left the army at the end of war as captain. His real younger brother, Lieutenant General (Retd) Syed Muhammad Amjad, Probyn's Horse, from 3rd War Course, did meritorious service in the Army before retirement. As Lieutenant General he raised National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and was its first Chairman. Later, Commanded 2 Corps in Multan. After retirement he was Managing Director, Fauji Foundation. His nephew, Brigadier Syed Muhammad Mujtaba (Retd) served in 29th Cavalry & 57th Cavalry.

Notes: -

1. The officers mentioned below joined Armoured Corps from the 1st PMA Course.

a. PA 2704 Iqbal Mehdi Shah, Probyn's Horse (later Brig)

b. PA 2706 Sardar Ahmad, 13th Lancers (later Brig), Commanded 2 Independent Armoured Brigade Group, during 1971 War. He later joined Foreign Service and became Ambassador.

c. PA 2743 Lt Col Mohammad Hussain Tiwana

On Commission he joined 19 Lancers.

d. PA 2719 Brig Muhammad Ahmed SJ (5 May 1929 - 15 Sep 2022) Guides Cavalry, commanded 25C . .

- e. PA 2713 Brig (Retd) Muzaffar Khan Malik. He joined 6th Lancers which was located at Kohat.
- f. PA 2722 Lieut (Retd) Zafar Hashmat.
- g. PA 2732 Lt Col (Retd) Aziz-ur-Rahman.

Brigadier (Retd) Mohammad Ahmad WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING ARMoured CORPS OFFICERS. He recently passed away, on 22 September, 2022

Major Mohammad Ahmad was another of our course mates who gave outstanding performance of personal bravery and set an example of leading his troops from up in the front. It was on 8th September, 1965, when the Indians launched their Major Offensive in the Sialkot Sector. It was led by their 1 Armored Division and was supported by Three Infantry Divisions. They came up to Phillarauh unimpeded, as 24 Brigade and 25 Cavalry had been earlier pulled out from there and sent to Jassar Bridge for a possible counter attack. When the news of this major Indian Offensive reached the GOC 15 Division, who also was milling around in the area of Narowal, he told Brigadier Abdul Ali Malik, Brigade Commander 24 Brigade and Lieutenant Colonel Nisar, Commanding Officer 25 Cavalry, to do something. No one knew about the direction and the place of the Indian attack at that time and as such only blind orders to rush back to Phillarauh were given. Major Mohammad Ahmed's B Squadron was at the tail of the convoy of 25 Cavalry moving towards Jassar, and so he was ordered to lead this rush back. As he reached Chawinda, he noticed the oncoming charge of the Indian Armor which was fast approaching Chawinda. At that time, he had no estimate of their strength. Since the situation was very vague and fluid, he ordered his Squadron to adopt line abreast formation and move towards the oncoming enemy. As they came out of Chawinda, with all their 14 tanks up in front, they had their first encounter with the enemy. The sight of these 14 tanks appearing, immediately put panic in the ranks of the oncoming enemy leading Armored Regiments, and they started to withdraw. They perhaps thought that behind these tanks there must be the remaining of the tanks of the unit and this put the scare in their mind. They were bewildered and had no idea of the strength of our forces. Major Ahmad started the pursuit of these retreating tanks of the Indian Armoured Division and began to engage these formations in tank battle. While he was frontally containing the enemy approaching thrust, 25 Cavalry less his Squadron had also reached and by accident hit the flank of the approaching enemy formations. This turned out to be a classic Armor Manoeuvre. B Squadron of Major Ahmed was attacking them frontally and pushing them back, while the rest of the regiment was striking the flanks of their leading Armored Regiments. This was resulting in very heavy destruction of the Indian tanks. The whole of the attacking force was paralyzed. While this engagement was going on, Major Ahmad suddenly had some problem develop in the firing pin of his gun. At that time, he saw two Indian tanks approach him. He was in a quandary as to what should he do. Instead of retreating he decided to just charge towards the oncoming Indian tanks. Instead of attacking his tank, to his luck, they started to withdraw. This gave him time to reach to the cover of a nullah and he managed to fix the firing pin of the gun. He resumed his action and kept destroying their tanks. In this engagement his own tank was hit, but he managed to come out before it caught fire. He immediately jumped into another tank and continued the fight.

It was a glorious action and continued the whole day. Due to the heavy casualties' inflicted on the Indian Armor, they kept withdrawing. By the evening, 25 Cavalry all by itself, had pushed back the attacking Indian Forces to across the International Border, from where they had debouched in the earlier hours of the morning. From one of the destroyed Indian Tanks the operational orders for this attack were recovered. It transpired that this attack was led by 16 Cavalry and 17 Horse was on its left flank. These two leading tank Regiments suffered the maximum casualties. This was the attack of their full Armored Division and was supported by 3

Infantry Divisions. Never in the annals of Military History can one find any parallel account. It was unique. A tribute to 25 Cavalry, in which Major Ahmad played an important role. They made an epoch making performance in the battle field. Ahmad was later injured, as his tank was hit again and he suffered from burns of his face and hands and was evacuated to C.M.H. Sialkot. For this brave act, he was awarded Sitara-i-Jurat. He proved to be another pride of the course. The Operational Orders recovered from one of the tanks of 16 Lancers of the Enemy are placed below to illustrate as to how they launched this Major Offensive on 8th September, 1965, with one Armored Division and Three Infantry Divisions.

**PA 2719 BRIGADIER (Retd)
MUHAMMAD AHMED, SJ,
PASSED AWAY ON 15
SEPTEMBER 2022, IN
RAWALPINDI.**

**May Allah Almighty bless
his soul! Ameen**

**He was buried in the Army
Graveyard, Rawalpindi,
with full Military Honours,
as he was a recipient of
gallantry award of SJ.**



ANNEXURE 2

COPY OF CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENT

TOPSEC

Copy No _____
7501/GS/ON
7 Sep 65

OPERATION "NEPAL"
16 CAV OO NO 1
(No change from verbal orders)

Maps:- (a) KASHMIR and JAMMU
1 in to 4 miles
Sheets 43 L and 43 P
(b) KASHMIR and JAMMU
1 in to 1 mile
Sheets 43 L/11, 43 L/14 and 43 L/15

INFO

1. **Enemy**
 - (a) Small posts of enemy police parties at NAKNAL 9329, SUJAN 9331 and area 2r 977297 (LAHRI KALAN).
 - (b) Approx one pl inf noticed area SUJAN.
2.
 - (a) Enemy tks likely to be at NAKWAL and area BHAGHIARI 9129.
 - (b) Enemy hy arty reported NORTH of SIALKOT at BARMAN 0025.
 - (c) Hepr Pad and tk elements loc ZAFARWAL 9118.
3. Main enemy armr pivots are probably loc at PASRUR 7007 – SIALKOT, PHILLORA 7421, ZAFARWAL and SHAKARGARH 1710. Enemy armr might also attempt to cross over the DEGH NADI on the EAST. X rds 8117 is a vital pivot.

Own Tps

4. **Flanking fmns**
 - (a) C Sqn 62 Cav (Tac No 70) on extreme LEFT.
 - (b) 17 HORSE on our LEFT.
 - (c) 43 Lor Inf Bde Gp with 2L on our RIGHT.

5. Atts and dets

- 16 CAV with -
 under comd -
 5/9 GR
 Det 14 Aslt Fd Coy
 in direct sp and under comd for mov -
 3 Fd Bty, 2 Fd Regt
 in direct sp -
 185 Med Bty ex 71 Med Regt
 Remainder of 185 Med Bty
 under comd for mov only -
 3 Fd Regt

INTENTION

6. 16 CAV gp will adv on route RAMGARH 9636 - HATBAL 9334 SAMDU MANHASPUR 9232 - RANGOR 9131 - PAREL 8829 - PINDI BAGO 8326 - CHOBARA 8024 - PHILLORA and capture PHILLORA on 8 Sep 65 (called RED route).

METHOD

Gen

7. The adv will be one up with 'B' Sqn leading.

Grouping and order of march8. Van gd

- (a) Comdr
 Maj M RAVINDRAN, OC 'B' Sqn.
 (b) Tps
 B Sqn with under comd -
 B Coy gp 5/9 GR
 FOO 185 Med Bty
 one dozer 14 Aslt Fd Coy

9. Main gd

- RHQ Tp
 R gp with protection sec
 O Gp 5/9 GR
 Pl 14 Aslt Fd Coy
 Recce Tp
 Bty Recce party
 Van gd gp 2 consisting of :-
 A Sqn
 A Coy gp 5/9 GR
 One FOO 2 Fd Regt (SP)
 3 Bty Regt Recce Party
 Bn HQ
 SP Coy less dets
 C Coy
 D Coy

Commodity pts

21. Will join Bde A2 Ech at 1400 hrs on 8 Sep 65 in present loc.

Sups

22. Three days rations will be carried.

Repair and rec

23. One AWD will be following the coln.

Med

24. (a) ADS loc with Bde A2 Ech.
(b) MDS loc at SAMBA.

PW

25. PW cage at Rear Div. GENEVA convention will be strictly observed.

INTERCOMN

26. Regt freq will be used. Netting has been completed. In the event of any sqn being det orders will be given for change to sqn freq on codeword "TANGO".
27. All stas will keep checking nets off and on and it is their responsibility to remain on net.

Nicknames

28. Being issued separately.

Wrls silence

29. Wrls silence will be observed till contact.
30. BWS on codeword "GITA".

ACK

Time of signature 1900 hrs
Del instrs BY HAND

Sd/Capt
Q/Adjt



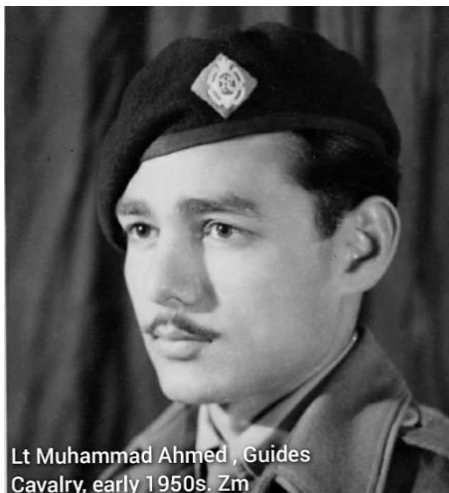
Zafar Hashmat & Aziz Ur Rehman with Dwarf in Swat



The Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto Signing the Visitors Book at Staff College, Quetta



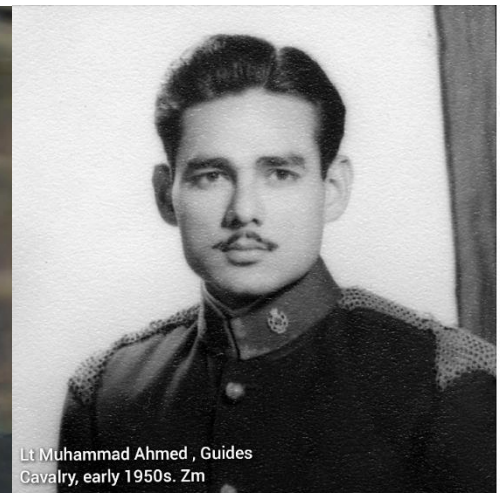
**The Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto Meeting Brigadier Mohammad
Ahmad at the Staff College, Quetta**



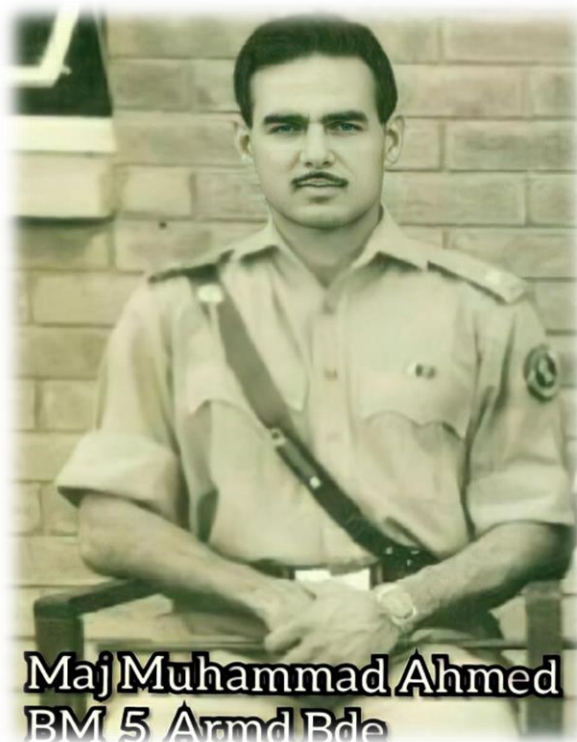
Lt Muhammad Ahmed , Guides
Cavalry, early 1950s. Zm



Muhammad Ahmed - 1941



Lt Muhammad Ahmed , Guides
Cavalry, early 1950s. Zm



Maj Muhammad Ahmed
BM 5 Armd Bde



Maj Muhammad Ahmed
Guides Cavalry, 1954





PA 172 Lt Col Syed Naiyer Raza, 11th Cavalry (FF) , father-in-law of Brig Muhammad Ahmed (Retd), SJ. Zm



Left to Right :

Maj Gen Fazale Haq (later Lt Gen), Guides Cavalry, Lt Col Muhammad Hussain Awan (later Maj Gen), 11th Cavalry (FF), Brig Muhammad Ahmed , Comd 7 Armd Bde, Guides Cavalry & 25th Cavalry, Lt Col Ghousid Ali Khan (later Maj Gen), 11th Cavalry (FF) Zm

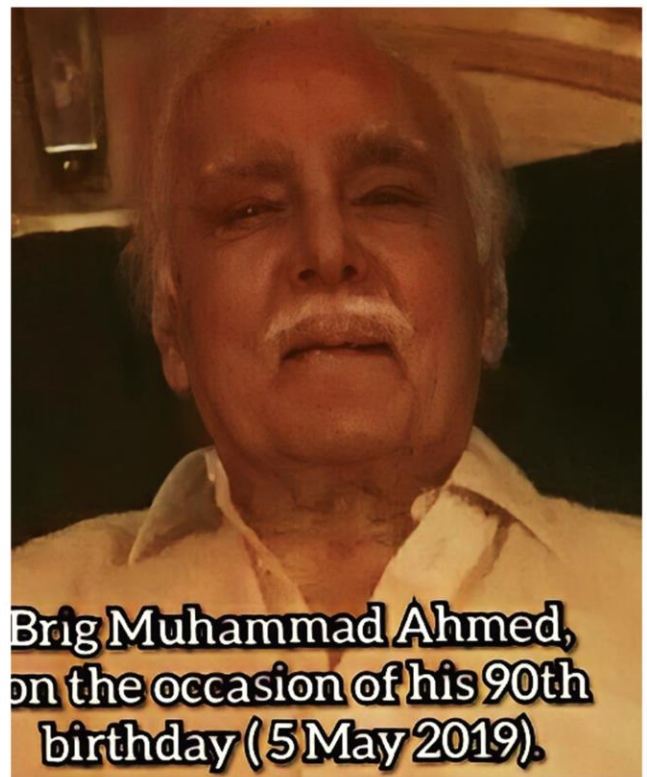


Memorable group photo of 11th Cavalry (FF) officers on the occasion of centennial ceremony of unit in Jhelum on 18 May 1949 . Zm

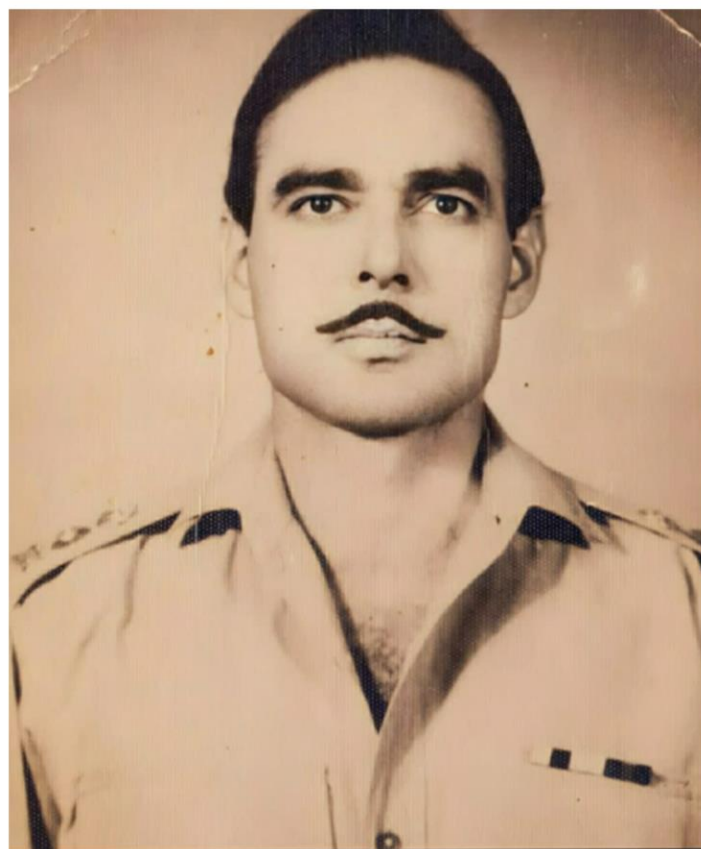
Sitting L to R :

1. Brig W A Gimson , Guides Cavalry, Director Armoured Corps ;
2. Maj Syed Naiyer Raza (later Lt Col) , 11th Cavalry ;
3. Gen Douglas David Gracey, C- in - C Pakistan Army ;
4. Lt Col Abdul Rashid Khan, CO 11th Cavalry ;
5. Maj Gen F. J. Loftus Tottenham, GOC 7 Div;
6. Maj Hafeez ur Rehman (later Lt Col) , 11th Cavalry and 13th Lancers ;
7. Brig Haji Iftikhar Ahmed (later Lt Gen) , Hodson's Horse, 3rd Cavalry & Probyn's Horse.

Lt Col Zahid Mumtaz (Retd), 54C



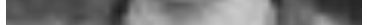
**Brig Muhammad Ahmed,
on the occasion of his 90th
birthday (5 May 2019).**



**AS CO 25th CAVALRY (1966)
PA 2719 Brig Muhammad Ahmed (5 May 1929 - 15 Sep 2022) ,SJ , Guides
... 1959 - From 1st BMA - commissioned on 4 Feb 1959 - 7m**



Mian Muhammad Mahmud S/O of Mian Muhammad Nazir was born on 16.12.1929. He was Resident of "Gulafshan", Ravi Road, Lahore.

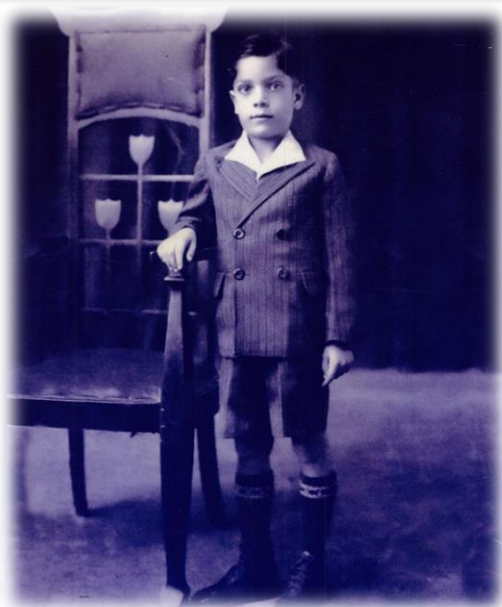
 On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery. His first posting was to 12 Medium Regiment, which was located at Peshawar. He was the first from our Course who opted for Air. O.P. in 1951. Later Zafar and Babar joined him in 1952. All three of them played a very major role in the earlier No1 Air O.P. Flight, Royal Pakistan Air Force and later in its growth to Army Aviation. In 1965 war he Commanded No 1 Army Aviation Squadron which won the Accolades of all in Chamb/Jaurian Sector and later in the Sialkot Sector.



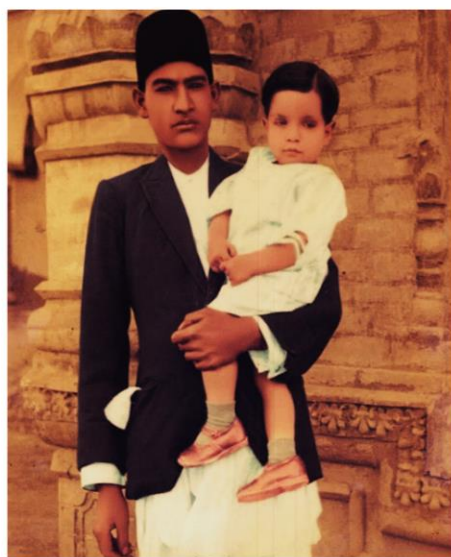
In the Background of Chawinda Sector in which Lt Col Mahmud Participated in 1965 war in Command of 1 Army Aviation Squadron



[This Aerial Photograph of the house in which he was born on 16th December, 1929 in Lahore (Shown in Red Rectangle) was taken by Mahmud in 1951.]



Mahmud When he was Ten Years old



Mahmud as a Young Boy of one Year

It is amidst this background that my mind flashes back to my childhood. I did my Primary education from Government School, Outside Masti gate. In Class Five I joined Central Model School Lahore, from where I did my matriculation. I was an eleven years old boy, and I was having the privilege of sitting in the Pindal of the famous meeting in Minto Park, Lahore on March 23, 1940. To articulate the profundity of what I felt, as I sat there and listened to the speeches would be rather difficult. Quaid-e-Azam stood very tall. I was in great admiration listening to his speech, when with a dignified and a thundering tone, he very clearly and precisely was articulating his voice and placing the demand for the creation of Pakistan. His was a towering personality, and I looked at him with great admiration and adulation. His words still reverberate in my mind. It only seems like yesterday that he echoed; “Mussulmen’s are a nation, and a nation must have its boundaries”.

This was the period when the struggle for the creation of separate homeland for the Muslims of India was attaining symbolism. The Pakistan Muslim League under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was galvanizing the Muslims of India towards their desired destiny. But before this a very important reference needs to be elucidated to bring out as to how the Quaid was motivated to come back to India from England, where he was having a thriving practice and living a luxurious life. Some Muslim leaders of India approached the Quaid to come back to India and lead the struggle for the emancipation of the Muslims of India in their inalienable right to safe guard their future after the British leave India after their long rule of their colony. While the Quaid was still mulling his decision, some English friends of him were coaxing him not to leave England, where he was living a fruitful and comfortable life. He should not forsake it for an arduous struggle where the future is uncertain and the task is very upheaval. Quaid later recalls and in fact he recorded it in his own hand, that while he was still in the process of making up his mind, he had the privilege of seeing the Holy Prophet (SAW) in his dream. The message that was given to him in his dream, was very clear, “Your duty is to go back to India and lead the struggle for the Muslims of India for their emancipation.” It left no doubt or option for him, but to return with full resolve to take up this onerous responsibility of leading the Muslims of India in these defining moments. Some times after his return, a British friend of him came to India to meet the Quaid. He intriguing was asking him as to what he now feels about leaving his lavish and successful life in England for his new journey of constant struggle laced with an uncertain future and in definitive prospects. The reply that the Quaid gave was most revealing of his intents and commitments to the cause for which he had returned to India. He said, “I have no regrets. My main concern now is that when I go back to the next world, Allah (SWT) will ask me what was my accomplishment in the worldly life that I lived. My hope and prayer is that that he will graciously tell me, Thank you Mr Jinnah. You secured the future of the Muslims of India,” It is in this backdrop that the prominent leaders of All India Muslim League gathered in Lahore in March 1940. It was in their quest to define their demand for a homeland for the Muslims of India that a meeting was arranged at the famous Minto Park on 23rd March, 1940. A few days before that meeting, Khaksar movement headed by Allama Mashriqi had brutal firing on the participants killing many innocent people. A curfew had been imposed in Lahore. Quaid was strongly advised to postpone the meeting. He had his sympathy with the Khaksar Volunteers who had attained “Shadaat” and offered his condolences to their leadership, but Quaid still decided to have the important meeting as scheduled. And I was having the proud privilege of sitting in the Pindal of that famous meeting in Minto Park, Lahore. I was a Ten Years and Three month old lad, my uncle had taken me for the meeting and was a witness to that august gathering. To articulate the profundity of what I felt, as I sat there and listened to the speeches would be rather difficult. The key Muslim leaders gave their thoughtful and inspiring addresses. But it was Quaid-e-Azam who stood very tall. I was in great admiration and in awe listening to his speech, when with a dignified and a thundering tone, he very clearly and precisely was articulating his voice and placing the demand for the creation of Pakistan. His was a towering personality, and I looked at him with great admiration and adulation. His words

still reverberate in my mind. It only seems like yesterday that he echoed; "Mussalman's are a nation, and a nation must have its boundaries". Finally, the Resolution for the demand for the creation of Pakistan was tabled by Maulana Fazal-ul-haq of Bengal, if I recollect correctly. It had the unanimous approval of all with the thundering voice of all who had the fortune to be present there, including my feeble voice. What a moment it was and what a spirit it displayed? I will always cherish that and have lived my life with those aspirations. May that be the guide and beacon for the present and even the future generations of Pakistan. For this historic meeting, Quaid-i-Azam was living at the house of Mian Bashir Ahmad S/O Justice Sir Shad Din at 43, Lawrence Road, Lahore. He was also from Arain family of Lahore and our families had known each other well. His son Manzar Bashir was my class fellow when I joined Government College, Lahore in 1943. A historic photograph of that meeting taken at 43, Lawrence Road, Lahore is available and I place that here for record.

***This Historic Picture was taken on the Eve of the Meeting at Minto Park,
Lahore on 23 March 1940***

ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE SESSION
AL-MANZER LAWRENCE ROAD
23.MARCH 1940 LAHORE



Chairs L to R: Ch. Khaliq, Mian Abdul Hayee, Mr. Khazar Hayat, Sir sikander Hayat, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah,
Mian Bashir Ahmad, Mr. Shah Nawaz Mamdote, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sir Muhammad Yousaf.

Standing 1st Row: Nawab Muzafar Khan, Sardar Orang Zaib, Malik Barket Ali, Mr. Hussian Ammam, Sir Saad Ullah, Mr. Abdul Rauf,
Mr. Mahboob Qureshi, Mr. Abdulha Haroon, Nawabzada Rasheed Ali Khan.

Standing 2nd Row: Qazi Eisa..... Mian Ameer ud Din.

Aziz Aznic
Aznic Studio
0321-8462258

While growing up in Lahore, which was a Muslim Majority Province, I still recall clearly as to how Muslims were kept deprived and underprivileged. Mostly the Hindus dominated all the business. They were the major philanthropists. In industry only they featured prominently. Even in education, they were way ahead of the Muslims. Some idea can be gauged from my experience of admission in the college. It was in 1943 that I completed my Matriculation from Central Model School, Lahore. I got First Division and was optimistic that I would surely obtain admission in Government College, Lahore, which was a premier institution not only in Punjab but the whole of India. I was but a mere thirteen-year-old boy when I appeared for my interview. At the head of the table, which formed the board, sat Mr G.D. Sondhi, who was the Principal of the college. He was accompanied by six other very dignified and impressive Senior Professors. I stood there meekly, shrinking before this impressive and intimidating group of people. Suddenly, I heard Mr Sondhi speak out, "Young man, I am sorry there are no more vacancies left in the admissions for the first year class." I stood speechless and perplexed. Suddenly, while looking at the admission form he read out," I see that your father was an old student of the college." I felt somewhat reassured. "Yes, sir," I replied in a meek voice. The Principal was now turning over the other pages of my application form. He suddenly got excited and said, "I see your grandfather is an alumnus of Government College Lahore and your elder brother is currently in his Second Year." Before I could digest the significance of these remarks, I saw that he had already risen from his chair and was extending his hand towards me. Speaking now in a softer and more affectionate tone, he remarked, "Who has the heart to say no to you?" I was slightly taken aback, but immediately felt a wave of relief flood the insides of my chest. I reciprocated his gesture and shook hands with him, then proceeded to leave the room blessed with the comfort of knowing that I had been granted a place in one of the most prestigious institutions in India.



The Matriculation Class of Central Model School, Lahore- 1943.

Mahmud is standing 9th from the left, first row.



*A Blow Up of the Class of
Matriculation –
1943
Mahmud,
Nasim Hassan Shah
and
Riaz Ahmad*

From 1943 to 1948, I remember mostly spending my time with my friends, sat on the steps that overlooked the Oval in Government College. We talked about a variety of things, but looking back only the thoughts we shared about the future of our nation are the ones that I hold dear. From that group of friends, I can recall Chief Justice (Retd.) Naseem Hassan Shah, Syed Munir Hussan Shah (Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Information), Masood Zaman (Ex-Secretary Ministry of Commerce), Riaz Ahmad, Kanwar Eizazullah, Vice-Admiral Fazal Janjua, Major General Azhar Ali Syed, Group Captain Amirullah Khan Awan and Adnan Sheikh. We all fondly remember the days of G.D. Sondhi, Dickenson and A.S. Bokhari, as being our Principal's' during the period. They all made our Alma Mater stand out as a beacon of light. The standards of academic excellence, as well as ancillary activities, were truly unrivalled, in those days. This can best be judged by the fact, that the induction of into the most prestigious service of ICS, had the maximum representation proportionately from this institution. The admission in the college was most competitive and was primarily on merits. Even then, however, despite the fact that it was a Muslim majority province, out of a total of 100 students selected for the 1st Year Class, there were only 26 Muslim students who found the admission. That shows the standard of education among the Muslim boys. A few seats were reserved for nomination by Chief Minister. One of my friends from the seventh grade, Mian Zia-ud-din, availed this elitist route to admission in the College. He was made to share my bench by our seventh-grade teacher Master Taliah Mand while at the Central Model School, in the fervent hope that he may benefit from my company. His father Mian Zahur-ud-din had died and his uncle Mian Amir-ud-din was his guardian. Soon after Zia joined me in my class, Mian Amir-ud-din came to see my grandfather. I was overwhelmed to hear his uncle's faith in the strength of my character as he expressed to me his notion that through spending time with me, his nephew's character and subsequent results will improve and help him complete his matriculation alongside me. He was correct, Zia secured a Third Division matriculation as a result. When we came to the college for the interview for admission, Zia kept waiting for the fate of my application. As I came out of the room after my interview before the board, he was intriguingly engrossed in my story of the interlude. When I finished, he seemed rather disillusioned and felt that with his third division results he had no chance. So he left without appearing before the board. But his uncle got him nominated from the Chief Minister's quota. I felt happy knowing that another one of my friends was joining me alongside the two (Nasim Hassan and Riaz Ahmed), who already were admitted. But I was soon disappointed. He rapidly lost all interest in his education and often wasted his time playing cards in some corner of the Oval. I tried to persuade him but to no avail. I recently met his son, Qamar Zia, and narrated the entire story to him about his father. He was bemused.

To this day, I am proud of the fact that, as to how this premier institution, had helped build the character, will, and the desire to triumph in its students. It made the atmosphere enthralling. The teaching faculty comprised of people who were open-minded, welcoming and always willing to entertain meaningful and honest discussions. Many memories come to mind, but I would narrate one to illustrate the point. A group of us were sitting on the steps of the open air theatre, and our Principal A.S. Bokhari just walked over and sat with us. To engage us in a discussion he asked, "Don't you think that this theatre should have a name?" In our relaxed and somewhat callous style, we opined that there is no need for that to which he smiled and said, "In foreign countries, even a dog has a name, and you don't want to give this culturally significant place a name?" So in harmony, we all agreed.

Another aspect of the institution was the spirit, camaraderie and unity amongst all the students. It had no class or other distinctions of religious rivalry or animosity. I remember once during a particularly turbulent period of political instability, a Hindu mob entered the premises of the College and broke the window panes and ripped off the curtains in the main hall. Then-principal, Mr. A.S. Bokhari called all the students in the hall

and admonished them. I can still feel the emotion that he exhorted that day, "Before your very eyes, the window panes were broken and the curtains were torn in this great institution where your fathers and forefathers had studied before you." The feeling of guilt and shame that had filled me, I shared with everyone present inside the hall.



The Rowing Team of Government College, Lahore, who were the Champions of Inter Collegiate Tournament. Mahmud is standing 5th from left.



*Some of the old Ravians of Class of 1943.
We met recently, Mahmud is sitting on the right.*

In October 1947, I made the unexpected decision to join the Army. This decision came with a passion, the same that we had seen in the struggle for the creation of Pakistan. Hence, we had no inhibitions, and that became our guideline and symbol to follow.

THE PIONEERING DAYS

I joined the Army soon after the partition. A group of our friends from Government College, Lahore, applied for this assignment during the period of Oct-Nov 1947. We had the preliminary selection board at Lahore. After passing that, I was called in front of the Inter-Services Selection Board at Rawalpindi. Colonel Ali Noon was the President of the board. He was the brother-in-law of Hamid Ali Noon, an acquaintance from college, and a friend of my uncle, Brigadier (Retd.) Mian Bashir. While selecting me, he suggested that the Pakistan Air Force course had already started at Risalpur and that if I was keen to join the Air Force, I could go there directly. But joining the Army was my passion, and so I opted for that, getting selected for the First PMA Long Course. Only graduates were being picked for the PMA Short Course, and even though I had taken my BA examination, the results had not been announced, so I was put in the long course.

I maintained my attitude of restricting myself to a small group of friends. Izzat Hayat Khan, Rab Nawaz Khan and Prince Saif-ur-Rehman, all found their way out of PMA. From Tariq Company, I moved on to Qasim Company. Captain (later Lieutenant General) Abdul Majeed Malik remained our Platoon Commander. Major (later Colonel) S.G. Mehdi became our Company Commander. He was earlier the Adjutant of PMA. My close group of friends now was Aziz-ur-Rahman, Abdullah Malik, Muzaffar Malik and Hamid Ali Noon. The piece of advice that I was getting was why I was too selective about the Company that I keep! Why don't you mix with others! Was the constant query. My answer as always was that I want to associate with only like-minded people. Many names were suggested, but I always felt very strongly; that I could meet only those that I felt at ease or comfortable with and who were like minded.

Over the weekends, Hamid Ali Noon and I would come for visits to Rawalpindi. Colonel Ali Noon's house, which was located at the Peshawar Road, just opposite to the then Race Course. On Sundays, we were always welcomed for lunch at his place. This was also regularly attended by many other guests, mostly senior Army Officers, some of whom we met on many such occasions. Major General Ayub Khan (later Field Marshal), Major General Raza, Major General Sher Ali and some others were regular visitors for lunch. As Cadets, we had the experience of associating with them informally and in a very relaxed atmosphere. They would engage themselves in very lighthearted discussions and would also encourage us to take part in that. We felt totally at ease and mixed with them with no inhibitions. We did not seem to be overawed by their ranks and had no complex. The routine was that after the lunch, the whole group would move over to the races and enjoy the afternoon watching the races. One such occasion I remember vividly. Hamid and I had taken up the matter of our seniority as we sat with Major General Sher Ali, who was the Adjutant General at GHQ. During the discussions, we had taken up the questions of our seniority vise-a-vise against those who had joined OTS. We were telling him that after we had joined 1st PMA Long Course, GHQ had also started the First OTS course at Kohat. These courses gave temporary commissions, and the duration of training was six months. We explained to him the anomaly that these Cadets had joined OTS Kohat after we joined PMA, but as our course was of 2 years' duration, they would get their commission earlier than us. The question that we were addressing to him was, how the seniority will be adjusted? Promptly, he replied that it would be the date of the commission which will determine the seniority. We were totally surprised at that answer. Very vehemently and forcefully we kept arguing that it was not fair. We had joined PMA before they started their training at OTS, and since their course was of 6 months only and they would get their commission before us, how could they be

considered senior to us on that basis! Despite the best of our efforts, we failed to convince him. We were rather amazed at his attitude. We did our best that we could, but he was not persuaded. This makes all the more befuddling that he could change his mind later. Regardless, GHQ ultimately fixed our seniority from date of joining PMA and OTS and not from our date of commission. We felt happy and redeemed.

Finally, we passed out from PMA, Kakul on 4th February, 1950. I opted to join the Arm of Artillery. After spending 6 months at Quetta, where we did weapons and J.O.L. Courses, we then arrived in Nowshera to do our Gunnery Course.



The Budding Gunners of Our Course

So far we were living in the officer's messes at the Infantry School and now the Artillery School. We the gunners had not seen the mess life of the Army Units. Located at Risalpur was the only Armored Brigade of the Army. Nasirullah Khan Babar's uncle, Lieutenant Colonel Ihsan Ullah Babar was at that time commanding 13 Lancers, which was part of that brigade. Babar suggested to some of us to accompany him to Risalpur to meet with his uncle. This we did and cycled the distance to reach their mess one evening. This was the first exposure for some of us of life in a unit mess at that time. The Armor messes had rich and impressive collection of silver and other war trophies. We were very suitably impressed. But the most interesting and the enjoyable experience was the atmosphere that we saw which prevailed in the mess. Babar's uncle, Ihsan Ullah, introduced us to Lieutenant Colonel (later Lt Gen) Gul Hassan, who was Commanding 5 Horse (Probyn's Horse). They both were pleased to meet us. They made us feel completely at home. We were kept engaged in a very lively discussion. They showed a lot of keenness to know our feelings and experience of joining the Army. Equally they would describe their life that they had spent in the Indian Army and their combat experience. It seemed like a role model for us. In particular, Lieutenant Colonel Gul Hassan, had a very distinguished record of service. He had seen combat in the Burma Theatre, was ADC to Field Marshal Slim and had the proud privilege to be the first ADC to Quaid-i-Azam. We were quite thrilled and happy and then kept visiting them regularly during our stay at the Artillery School. This happy, healthy and a most informal association that we had developed, continued throughout the rest of the lives; of a small group of us who kept these close contacts with both these officers. It was an excellent influence on our young and impressionable minds. It was a sharing

of mutual respect; remembering and acknowledging each other's straight forward approach and above everything else with no inhibitions. That endeared this relationship. We were equally very impressed by the caliber of the officers that we met at those get together in the mess.

Our training as young artillery officers was soon reaching its culmination. It was a well-planned and well conducted curriculum of both technical and outdoor training. We were asked for our choice of units. Zafar, who belonged to Peshawar was very strongly suggesting to all of us to ask for posting to units in Peshawar. We had visited this place regularly during our stay at the Artillery School and seemed to like it. Durrani, Akhtar, Mahmud, Zafar and some others from the course, had given the choice of 8 Medium Regiment and 12 Medium Regiment, which were located at Peshawar. While towards the end of the course, a friendly hockey match was played between 1 Mountain Regiment and a team raised from the school. Lieutenant Colonel Muzaffar, who was commanding this unit, saw Zafar playing for the school team and immediately picked him for posting to his unit, which was at the ranges for their annual training. When the postings were received, Zafar got the big shock when he learnt that he was posted to 1 Mountain. He locked himself in the room and we were believing that he was giving vent to his feelings and may be that he was crying. We were all rubbing it to him jokingly, that the transport in the form of four sturdy and hardy mules, were waiting for him, to take him to his unit. He got over this rude shock and we all proceeded to our new units. It was an end to our interesting and instructive period of stay at Nowshera.

Formative Years: In the period of our fresh lives in the units, we soon started to learn that our senior officers could be grouped into two distinct categories. There were the ones who had a professional approach, had good combat experience of World War II, who could inter act intelligently and who had groomed themselves well despite lack of adequate service and experience. They would mix with junior officers very freely, could engage in a professional and general discussion with ease and confidence and would maintain mutually respectable associations with us, the junior officers. On the other hand, there was another hard core of senior officers who were professionally rather shallow, had hardly any combat experience, had reached the higher ranks without the due experience and not learnt to mature themselves for the higher ranks that they were holding. Their conduct and attitude was just the opposite of the other senior officers described earlier as professionals. They would not like to mix very freely with the juniors and had learnt the art of command through creating fear in the minds of the subordinates. We learnt to keep our identity in dealing and serving with both the categories of our senior officers. We were hoping and praying that with the passage of time the true professional officers will be thrown up on top and will help bring stability, balance and bring in vision in the outlook and approach of our senior officers. In the Artillery, we faced a new brand of senior officers. They had been transferred from other services to make up the shortages of officers in Artillery. They neither had much experience of combat or any superior technical knowledge of their new arm. We used to call them Sheikh's. Their discussions sounded most comical to us when they would describe their experiences of either the supply train being stuck or the rations being late in reaching the combat units. In stark contrast to this were the animated and most impressive accounts narrated by others who had seen War. Commanding Officer 12 Medium Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Tikka Khan, who we had also known from PMA days, was most impressive. He would give the vivid account of how the German Panzer Division having over run the Infantry positions, attacked their gun positions. With deep interest and appreciation, we would listen as to how the guns took on the tanks with direct sights and repulsed the attack. This was to be followed with the regrouping of German Tanks and their maneuver to come from behind the guns and launch a fresh attack. Since the gun pits had not been dug for 360 Degree traverse, the gun position was over run and he was taken a prisoner. Wasn't it inspiring?

Unlike the Artillery, the officers from the other arms and services went to their units first and then later did their respective courses of their own Arms or Services. The induction of officers from the 1st PMA Long Course into their units was both distinctive and a land mark event. Many expectations were associated with them. There was an aura of a new generation of officers who had no links of the past, but who were highly motivated, had all volunteered to join the army with fresh spirit of the creation of a new Islamic country and who had been well groomed and well trained for a full period of training at the newly raised academy. It was both a test for our performance and a reflection of the institution where we got our basic training for our new career in the Army. In the hindsight, we can safely say that we did prove equal to the task and measured up to the standards expected of us. In the units we all started getting due attention and respect. The very first mentioning of 1st PMA was viewed with prestigious cult and gave us a kick start in our early careers.



The starting of life in 12 Medium Regiment at Peshawar

We kept pursuing our careers in our own arm/service and equally we had diverse assignments on staff and other duties. Lieutenant Mahmud was appointed ADC to the Prime Minister on his visit to Peshawar in March 1951. This was for a brief period of one week, but the Governor N.W.F.P, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, insisted on retaining him as his ADC, at the end of the visit of the Prime Minister. An incident worth remembering and recalling, of this brief interlude with Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, must be narrated. He described, that the only time he ever saw Quaid-i-Azam showing signs of nerves and anxiety was, when he had just returned to his house after his meeting with Sir Stafford Cripps. The occasion was his visit to India, when he had brought a fresh plan for the solution of Indian Independence. It was Mr. Jinnah who was first invited for the discussions. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan gave his personal observation and description of Quaid's state of mind and anxiety on his return. He said, "As I arrived to meet the Quaid, he was pacing up and down the corridor of his house. I had never seen him doing that and I could clearly see the signs of some nervousness and uncertainty written on his face. I picked up the courage to ask him the reason for this state of his mind. He gave me the details of the plan of Sir Stafford Cripps's, which he had laid open before him. The Quaid further said that he does not approve the plan as it has some serious implications for the Muslims, but he had only accepted it in the hope that when Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Nehru find out that Quaid had accepted it, they will reject it; smelling some catch in it. The Quaid remained in that state till he later learnt that Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Nehru had rejected this plan. He immediately expressed a sigh of relief and said, "Thank God."

Captain Mahmud was retained as ADC, to the Governor N.W.F.P. During the summer the Government moved to Nathiagali, and it was a very good respite from the heat of Peshawar.



Group of friends from Government College, visiting Capt Mahmud in Nathiagali



Mr. Munir Ahmad, who became Chairman PAEC, is sitting in the Centre

This gave Captain Mahmud an opportunity to see the corridors of power and observe the scenes and happenings there in. There were many experiences that he can recount, but the one during his visits to Karachi is the most significant and brings out the reflective atmosphere that prevailed at that level. On some of the visits made to Karachi, Mahmud clearly recalls, what the atmosphere in the Governor General's house was at the receptions hosted. General M. Ayub Khan had taken over as the first Pakistani Commander-in-Chief of the Army. He with his tall and impressive personality would be center of attraction at all those occasions. Everyone would be trying to gather around him and cajolingly telling him that the destiny of the country was in his hands. It was no marvel that it would get to his head sooner or later and that he would in all seriousness start

feeling that it was so ordained for him. To our young and independent minds this sycophancy was totally alien. We would abhor it and could hardly stomach it, but had no choice but to keep quiet.

It was in 1952 that the Indians made some threatening moves and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's response came in the way of his demonstration of his fist, which symbolized the resolve of the Nation. As a result, the troops were concentrated on the borders. The Director of Artillery, Brigadier Morley, personally called up Mahmud, who was at that time in Nathiagali. He said, "Young man your place is in the regiment and you better join them." He responded immediately and joined 12 Medium Regiment, his unit, which was near Sambrial. It was the peak of the summer and heat in the area was a big contrast to the cool of Nathiagali. But the spirit prevailed to endure that. Equally, the Commanding Officer Lt Col Tikka, was very appreciative of this act of Mahmud

Lieutenant Colonel Tikka Khan received his promotion orders and in his place the 2 i/c was promoted to take over the unit. Tikka Khan knew that Mahmud would not be able to pull along with him, so he asked him as to where would he would like to go. Mahmud had no idea. He then gave him two options. One was to go to Artillery School and do the Gunnery Staff Course, and the other was to go to Air O.P. Mahmud opted for the later.

He joined No. 1 Air O.P. Flight, Royal Pakistan Air Force, as was then called, in 1951. They had only Five Auster Aircraft. Since those pioneering days, Mahmud has been associated in all the activities of Air O.P. and later Army Aviation. He held all instructional and Command appointments. Lieutenant Colonel Mahmud had the distinction of Commanding 1 Army Aviation Squadron during the 1965 War. The squadron took part in the operations, stretching from Rann of Katch, to Chamb and finally the climax at Sialkot Sector. The Squadron gave a most commendable performance. It was praised by all and sundry. There were citations sent for the award of SJ for four aviators through 6 Armored Division and all four were awarded SJ. It was a unique and remarkable performance and achievement which won the praise, accolade and recognition of everyone in the field of battle. Maj. Gen Yahya Khan had initiated a citation for the immediate award of SJ for Lt Col Mahmud on 3rd September, while he was in the Chamb Sector. He was awarded TQA. Lt Gen Bakhtiar Rana was the head of the awards committee. He did not like the face of Mahmud, as he was most critical about his performance and conduct as commander of 1 Corps, or may be the total lack of it, on his face and openly. When the cease fire came on 23 Sept, 1965, he and many other officers were most critical of the decision. Lt Col Zafar was thrown out of the Army on account of that and some others would have followed suit but for the intervention of Maj. Gen. Yahya Khan. He told General Musa, if you are going to retire such officers, then who will fight the war for you. Though frustrated and disillusioned, Mahmud continued serving in the Army.

In 1968, he was posted to Command 33 Heavy Regiment located at Jhelum. His father had died early in April 1968 and to settle the affairs of the properties that he had inherited from his father, he requested his posting to Lahore. But this was denied by some sadistic minds in the MS Branch in GHQ. The result is that he still has an unresolved dispute over some highly valuable properties near Minar-i-Pakistan which were illegally taken over by the Lahore Development Authority, under the orders signed by Lt Gen Bakhtiar Rana, the Martial Law administrator at that time, without payment of any compensation. The matter has been in dispute for the last 15 years in the courts, and he is still hopeful that it will be resolved in his favor.

While still Commanding 33 Heavy Regiment, it was in 1971 that he decided to send his letter of resignation. He felt strongly that the Army was laying down wrong policies, criteria and plans for promotion to the higher ranks. Instead of this being answered, he received an order for his promotion to the rank of Brigadier and to take over as Commander 33 Division Artillery. He wrote back to the Military Secretary, that since it was an

emergency, he was proceeding to take over his Command, but would like to have a reply to his letter of resignation after the emergency was over.

During the 1971 war, Mahmud saw action in Chor Sector as Commander Artillery 33 Division. They were rushed to the area of Chor Sector, where a near debacle took place as the Indians attacked with full one Division against positions held by two poorly equipped and newly raised battalions. The G.O.C., Maj Gen Nasir Chaudhry and Brig Mahmud reached there during the night of 4th December, 1971, and the troops which were following them, arrived the next day. During the night, the Indian attack was launched unexpectedly on 20 Frontier Force Battalion, which was holding positions on sand dunes 200r, on the Right of the road to Chor. The unit in panic vacated the positions. The attacking troops occupied the feature 200r and between them and the 44 Bde HQ, the only remaining troops were two batteries of 40 Field Regiment, commanded by Lt Col Abdul Hamid (Popularly known as Hamidi –the famous hockey player). He in panic was imploring Mahmud to order their withdrawal, as they were under the direct observed fire of enemy guns, by troops occupying feature 200r, which was overlooking the gun positions. Mahmud told Hamidi firmly to hold on to their positions and brace up to fight both as Artillery and the Infantry. To his credit, he did it manfully until the cease fire came on 16th December, 1971.

In the morning, while they were still waiting for the troops to arrive, Maj Gen Chaudhry, along with Mahmud and Lt Gen Azhar, were standing above the bunker of 44 Bde HQ, in the grove of some trees, when they heard the sound of the aircraft overhead. Thinking these to be our own, as Brig Anwar was earlier asking for air support, obviously they did not seem to have any concern of any threat. They then heard the aircraft go into a dive, but yet they did not feel any concern. And suddenly there was a big burst of fire all-around them. The enemy aircraft had picked up the location of the Bde HQ accurately and had fired a long volley of its guns, which engulfed all the area around in a thick pale of smoke. Instinctively, Mahmud went down in the bunker but he found only Andy, the Bde Commander, standing there and not the two General Officers who were standing with him in the open above. He asked Andy to come up with him to see as to what the situation was. On emerging from the bunker, they saw that Lt Gen Azhar was lying down unconscious on the ground. Thinking that he may be seriously injured, they picked him up and took him down into the bunker. On examination they found no signs of any injury except for a drop of blood coming from his cheek, where perhaps some shrapnel had brushed past his chin. They sprinkled some water on his face and luckily he woke up and was found hale and hearty. At this stage, Mahmud also felt some feelings of a scratch on his back, but obviously it was not too serious and he ignored it. He suddenly realized that Maj Gen Chaudhry had still not come down in the bunker. As Mahmud came out of the bunker the second time, he saw Gen Chaudhry standing up there all buckled up on one knee. On his inquiry as to why he did not come down into the bunker, the G.O.C. exclaimed calmly that he was injured. When Mahmud had a close look at him, he found gushing of blood from the leg on which he was kneeling. On closer examination of it, he found that his right knee was totally smashed. Mahmud told him that he is calling his ADC and the jeep to rush him to the MDS in the rear, but Gen Chaudhry showed his reluctance and said that he cannot go back when the situation is so precarious. On Mahmud's insistence that he is in no condition to stay on there, he said that he will go back on only one condition and that is if he was to take over the Command, though both the Infantry Bde Commanders were senior to him, but he had no faith in them. He was immediately rushed back to the MDS, but before leaving he said that he will wait at the MDS and not go back to CMH at Hyderabad, till he hears from him that the situation has been stabilized. When the troops arrived, Mahmud immediately had the guns deployed and intensive concentrated fire was directed on the enemy positions at 200r, which they had recently captured. This had the salutary effect as there was no further enemy movements from those positions till the Cease Fire.

The next day Mahmud was woken up early in the morning by a call from his BM, Maj Niaz. He gave him the alarming news that the unit on the left of the road to Chor, 39 FF, had abandoned their positions in the face of the enemy attack. This was rather alarming and Mahmud rushed to the positions of 39 FF. While he was on the way, he got another call from Maj Niaz saying that while 39 FF has deserted their positions, our Artillery Observer, Subedar Mehdi was still holding on at 135r in his bunker and is directing the observed fire of own guns on the enemy. Mahmud instructed him to concentrate all the available guns and fire at the most intensive rate. When he reached the position, he saw the shameful stampede of the troops from their positions. The Commanding Officer of the unit, Lt Col Ijaz was frantically waving his walking stick and shouting at the troops to stop. Mahmud also joined in and the retreat was arrested. At this time there was another call from Maj Niaz, informing that due to the intense artillery fire, the enemy troops who were in the open, have suffered heavy casualties and have retreated. With this welcome news the troops were rushed back to re-occupy their positions at 135r. When they reached there they saw Subedar Mehdi emerge from his bunker to receive them. For this gallant action, a recommendation for the immediate award of SJ for him was initiated, and it was promptly awarded. The fire of the guns alone had redeemed the situation, without any attack of the Infantry. This was salutary. When the news of these actions was conveyed to Maj Gen Nasir Chaudhry, he felt happy and drove from MDS to CMH for the treatment of his serious injury.

After the war, when Lt Gen Gul Hassan, the Commander-in-Chief, came to visit Chor Sector, Brig Mahmud reminded him that the matter of his resignation is still pending and requested the favour of an early decision. Curtly, General Gul Hassan told him, "Get lost. You will not hear from me." The matter ended at that.

When General Tikka Khan was promoted as the COAS, Brig Mahmud was posted to take over the command of Army Aviation in early 1972, to modernize and strengthen it. He remained in Command for four years. The notable achievements were that aims and objectives, and the role of Army Aviation were clearly defined. The force goal targets were set. He proposed the inductions of helicopters to build a Brigade Lift capability, provision of Gun Ship helicopters and to acquire real time pictorial information capability. All these recommendations were approved and the Army Aviation was set on the path to acquire these. The other notable feature of his stay in command was to fully support Brig Babar's initiatives, adventures and all activities in the FATA area. They were sometimes on the verge of being reckless.

It was in June 1975 that Brig Mahmud tendered his resignation again. COAS, General Tikka Khan, sent Major General Faiz Ali Chistie, the Military Secretary, to fetch Mahmud to him where ever he was. As he was ushered in, he said that I see that you have resigned. Then looking at him, he tore the letter of resignation and threw it in the waste paper basket and said that this was his answer. This upset Mahmud. He told him, "Sir, you have made a big mistake. I had written a very brief letter of two lines only, saying that I have no more interest left in the Army and thus I am resigning from the Army. You will now force me to send you a detailed letter of resignation giving truly the reasons as to why I feel so." With this brief interview he left the office of COAS. The next day he sent in a very detailed four pages' letter of resignation, which elaborated all the reasons and concerns for his resignation. He started off by saying that throughout his entire career in the Army, he had seen as to how the most incompetent officers had been saddled on the top in the Army. The worst being, the situation that the Army saw at the time of 1965 War. These views he had shared openly and bluntly with all that he met. Major General Yahya Khan had agreed with him and had said, "I agree with you. We have failed to give this Army the Generalship that it deserved." When he became the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, there was a hope, but he started to promote the same very people, that he and Mahmud had criticized and even abused while sitting together. He lost all faith in him. And now that General Tikka had taken over the Command, the same pattern was being repeated. He had felt very disillusioned. The heart of the problem as

he described was, "It seems that the route to higher promotions in the Army is through the corridors of staff rather than the test of the battlefield." Many examples were flashing black in his mind, but he did not mention those in the letter. It was the loyalty to the top command that mattered the most. Mahmud was again called and asked that was he worried about his own promotion, and this was answered by General Tikka Khan himself, "I guarantee you that you will be promoted." The reply given by Mahmud was that he was not hankering for his own promotion. It did not matter to him. What does matter is that the Army must have a promotion system that throws up upright and professional soldiers rather than these dancing horses. This resignation too was kept pending by the COAS, General Tikka Khan, for six months. Finally, in December 1975, when he saw that Mahmud was most adamant, he grudgingly accepted it. He was retired honorably with full pension benefit, unlike Hamid Noon who lost half the pension.

In summing up, one can say without fear of any contradiction that 1st PMA Long Course, had the unique and privileged role, in the built up and the growth this new upcoming Arm of the Pakistan Army. A tribute that makes the course proud.

After his resignation, Mahmud along with a group of other friends formed an Aerial Crop Dusting Company by the name of International Aviation Services. Zafar provided all the funds. They did successful crop dusting in Pakistan and then moved over to Sudan to further continue the work. Against International competition the work of IAS was rated the best. This was most complimentary.

Later in association with five friends, namely Zafar, Abdullah, Safdar and Riaz, they formed another Company by the name of Effef Industries Limited (Five Friends), and set up a Solvent Extraction and Cooking Oil Plant at Kabirwala. Zafar, Safdar and Abdullah sold their shares, but Mahmud is still holding on to it.

Having been disgusted with all the Martial Laws and the havoc that they have wrecked in the Country, Mahmud was one of the Pioneers who formed initially Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Association (PESA) and later named Veterans of Pakistan (VOP), to enshrine the cause of Constitution of Pakistan and to safe guard it.

It was in November 2007, at an informal get together of the course mates of 1st PMA Long course that these serious concerns again surfaced and were raised. It was decided that a letter should be addressed to the COAS, in which briefly the gravity of the situation should be highlighted. There was a strong feeling that the proud image of the armed forces, in particular the army, had been badly tarnished. A letter was drafted. Before it could be signed and dispatched, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. In these sudden and tragic changes in our body politics, it was considered advisable to wait and watch.

A copy of the drafted letter is as below: -



They successfully agitated against the Martial Law of General Parvez Musharraf and now vociferously were critical of the mis-adventure of General Bajwa. They feel strongly that the good name of the Army has been tarnished and there is now the need to bridge the gap caused between the Army and the people of Pakistan, and to restore its image.

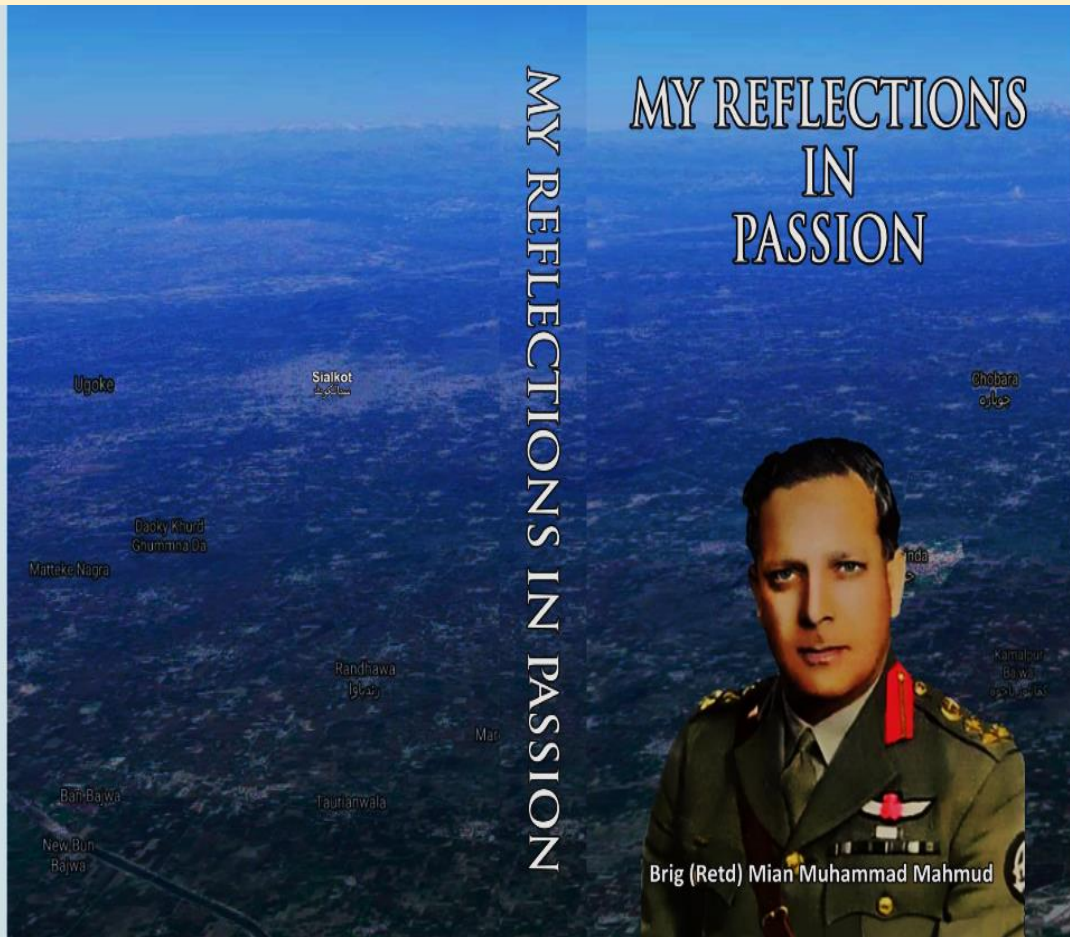
After the death of his wife in 2014, he moved over to Islamabad and is now staying with his son Akbar and his family. This gives him good company rather than living a lonely life.

Mahmud had started writing his book, but due to his wife's sickness, he could not devote much time and attention to it. When his wife expired in 2014, he had all the time to himself, so he seriously worked to complete this account of the book. After much delays due to the publishers, who felt that some parts of his book are highly sensitive and may evoke the wrath of the Intelligence Agencies, so they declined its publishing? Eventually, the book had to be published as self-Publisher. It was finally launched by the end of 2021. A Book Launching ceremony was held in the Islamabad Club on 25th January, 2022. Due to Covid, the function was kept restricted. The main speakers were from the three Services. Lieutenant General (Retd) Ali Kuli Khan was to represent the Army, but he had Covid and so had to regret. In his place Lieutenant General (Retd) Faiz Ali Chistie was chosen to speak on behalf of the Army. The Navy and the Air Force were represented by Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmad Tasnim SJ and Bar and Air Marshal (Retd) Masud Akhtar. Ikram Sehgal came especially from Karachi to attend and was also one of the speakers. Brig (Retd) Samson Simon Sharaf, who helped me in the writing of Chapter on Geo-Political Compulsions of Pakistan, also spoke on the book. I am grateful to them all for their worthy comments'. A look at the Cover Page and some Photos of the Book Launching Ceremony, may be of interest and are placed below: -

down their lives for it. This has since been embodied by all the newly joining young officers and is the marked distinction of this Army. They lived to always lead from up in front and this stands acknowledged by all. Lieutenant General Gul Hassan described them as, "They were the Commanders who fought side by side with their men and the outcome bore testimony to the fact that they were wanting in neither skill nor courage."

The narrative that has been contrived exclusively to project only the truth. True history must be preserved rather than allowed to be distorted.

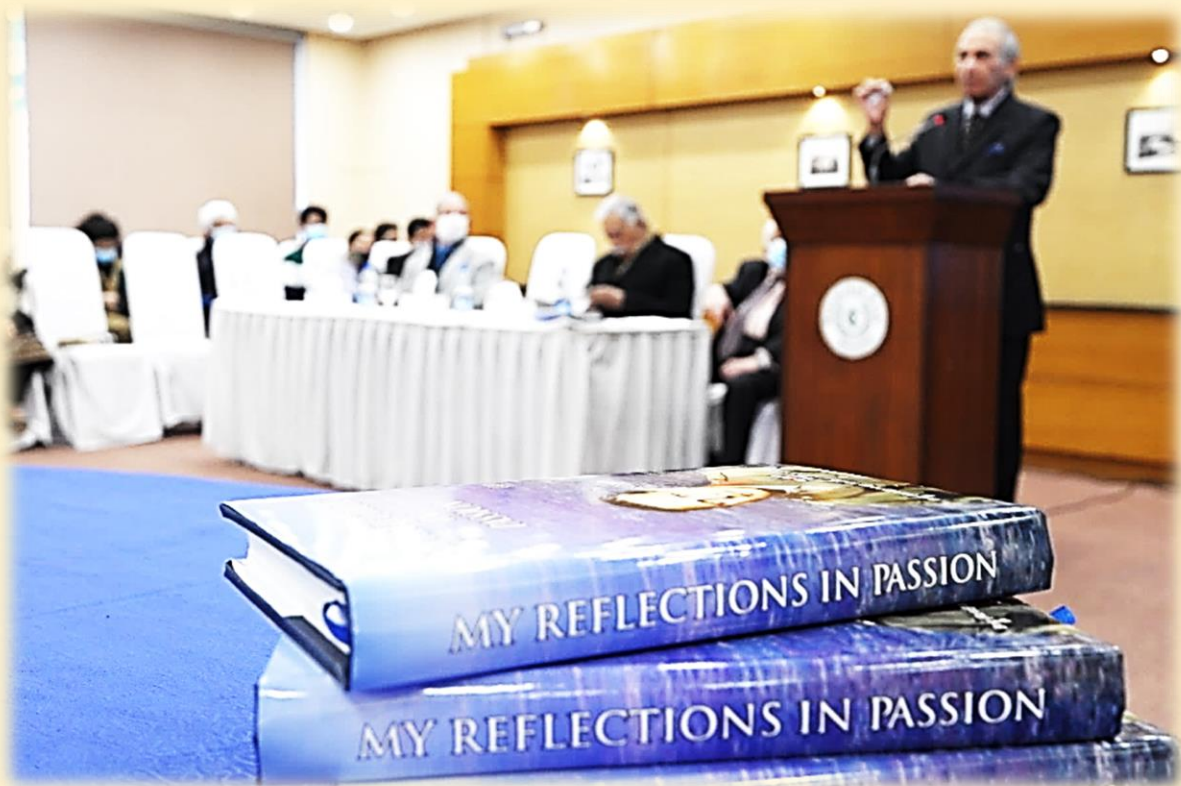
All the observations are either personal or related by those who were directly witness to the events.



Our generation had the unique privilege in that we lived through the period when the demand for the Creation of Pakistan started to blossom itself. And we saw it emerge right before our eyes. The struggle so carried out had the support of the entire Muslims of the whole of India and it had the trapping of a unique and unparalleled spirit.

And we were fortunate in that we captured this spirit in that we were fully a part of it. It was our aim that we should enthuse the same in the formation and the built up of the newly emerging Country. The start was with high hopes, but we soon started to falter and thus we failed to achieve this objective.

We joined the Army with a passion as we felt that it was enjoined upon us to stand up in the defense of this Country. This newly emerging Army grew up with this fortitude of the young generation who were prepared to give their best for their Country and even to lay



Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmad Tasnim addressing the Function.



Brig (Retd) Mian Mahmud giving his resume on the Book.



Ikram Sehgal giving his views.



Another view of the gathering



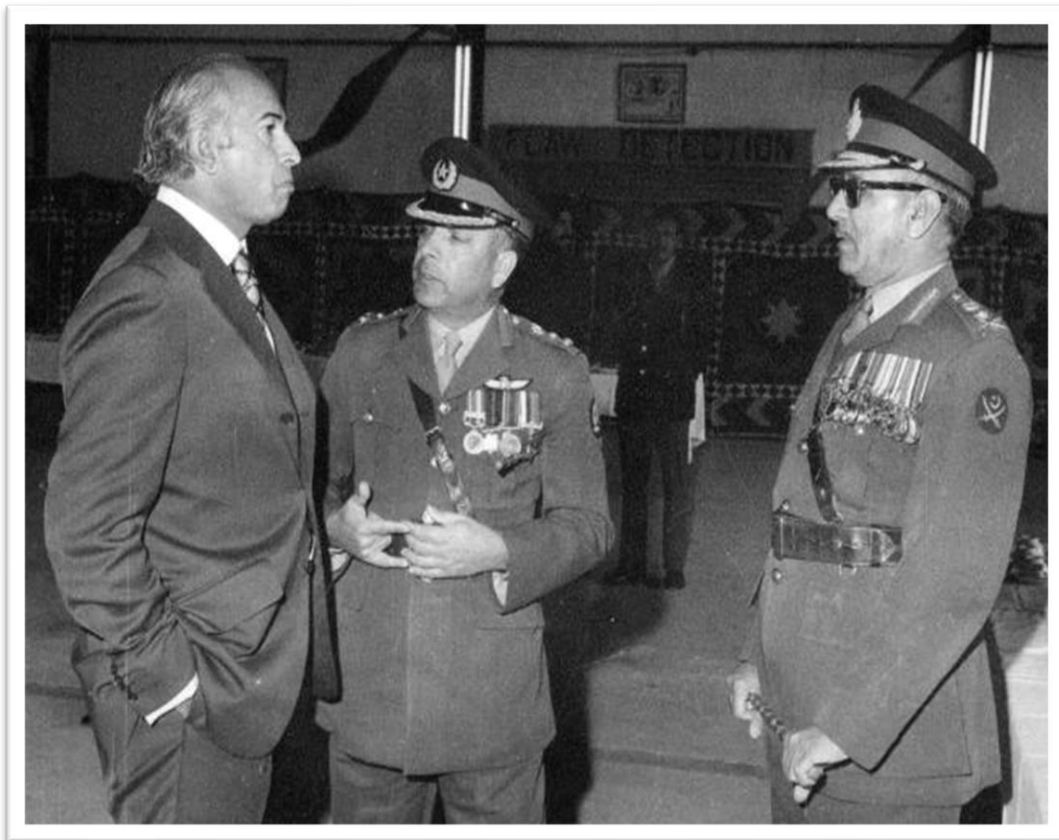
The parade for the award of flying brevet to Capt. Mahmud



Prime Minister Bhutto on Arrival at Dhamial Base. Mahmud is on the left.



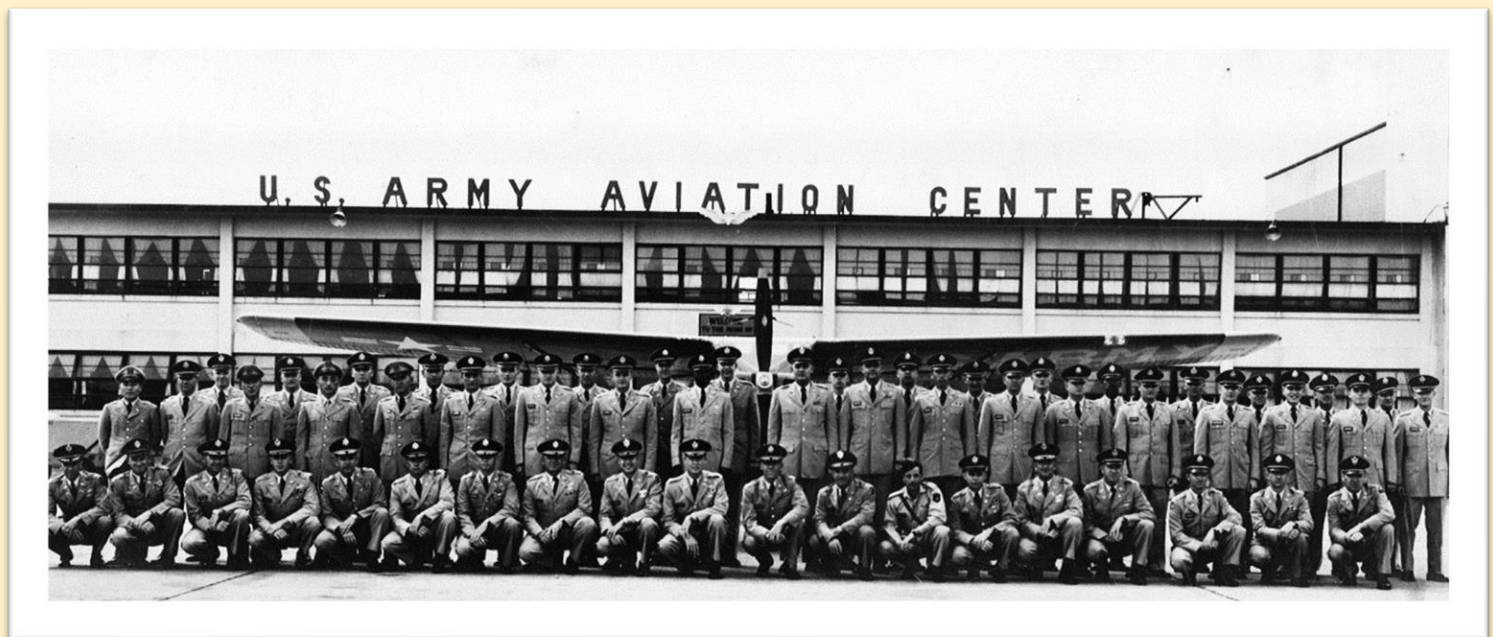
Staging Post at Fort Sandemen for Brig Babar's Missions in FATA



P.M. Mr. Bhutto in discussion with General Tikka Khan and Brig Mahmud



The Prime Minister watching the flying demonstration



Brig Mahmud on a Flying Training Programme at Fort Rucker, USA. Mahmud is sitting 7th From the Right.



Brig Mahmud being received by German Ambassador



The author is 1st from left, along with our instructor Wally Martin and some other students. Fort Rucker, Alabama, USA.



The author is 2nd from left, along with a group of friends. Lieutenant Colonel Gus Peyers exchanged his Cap with me out of affection and friendship .Fort Rucker Alabama. USA



Author, standing in the center, visiting Kote Tagga after the houses had been re-built.



The Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Sultan Bin Al-Nayhan on a visit to Qasim Base



Outside a mosque at St. Petersburg, author is in the Centre.



Hermitage in the background, author is on the right, St. Petersburg.



Inauguration of the Golf Course by ACM Zulfikar Ali, Kabirwala





**33 Heavy Regiment
(Called Janfishan)
Have their regular
get-together.
Mahmud had the
privilege to
Command this unit
from 1968-1971.**



**These Pictures are of
the celebrations of
the 66th Anniversary
of its raising. It was
celebrated on 11th
November, 2023 at
Rawalpindi Golf Club**





Get Together on 11th May 2023



Get Together on 8th January 2023



Brig Mahmud with Brig Shakoor, Colonel of the Regiment



26. PA 2721 (GC-235) Maj Gen Muhammad Riaz Khan

Muhammad Riaz Khan S/O Captain Karam Dad Khan was born on 11.4.1929. He belonged to Village Dewal, Murree. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery.

Major General Muhammad Riaz Khan was another very distinguished graduate of 1st PMA Course. During his tenure in the Army he held the key position of Director Military Operations and Director General Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate. As DG ISI he gave the institution the true colour and role of a gentle man and a professional soldier as he was. His family has sent a brief memoir on him and the same is being re-produced below: -

“My father Maj General Muhammad Riaz Khan, whom we called Abbajan, passed away on 26th April 1979, quite suddenly, leaving us all bereft with grief and shock. He was only 49 years of age, which is too young an age to die. But what is amazing is that even at a young age he inspired respect and admiration in the hearts of all the people around him, young and old, family and friends, seniors and sub-ordinates. Even more surprising is the fact that even today, more than 44 years after his untimely demise, he is remembered by those who knew him with the same respect and reverence; for his principles, strength of character, unwavering honesty and uprightness.

Abbajan was quite a tough disciplinarian, even at home, and we, his six children, were all a little bit in awe of him. But behind the tough veneer, he was an affectionate father to all of us. He had his own nicknames for all of us, which he used lovingly, when in a lighter mood.

He was always interested in our studies, and took a keen interest in all our activities.

Abbajan went to USA in 1964 for a one-year course. I asked him to bring a walkie-talkie doll for me, like the one I had seen somewhere and really wanted. He remembered the request and at the end of the course, besides other gifts he brought a really big and beautiful doll for me, which I still have so many decades later.

The one quality that Abba always tried to inculcate in his children was truthfulness. He considered lying and cheating as the ultimate sins, and did not tolerate them even when we were young. In today’s world, Abba’s high standards of honesty, integrity and virtuousness seem to be stories of fantasy, and they are impossible even for us, his family, to emulate.

My grandfather, Captain Karam Dad Khan, was an awe-inspiring person, respected by the entire village. But I clearly remember that where his adored son, my father, was concerned, there seemed to be a role reversal. The father respected the son like an elder and held him in very high esteem because of his exceptional qualities of head and heart, and his high sense of morality.

Abba was a very loving and caring son, especially to his mother ‘Boji’. I still remember that when she came to stay with us in Rawalpindi, Abba was a Brigadier at that time. Every day, on returning home from office, he would first go to her room, in uniform, and give her a smart salute. The frail, gentle old lady would give a sweet smile, full of love and pride for her son, and of course many, many prayers.

By nature, Abbajan was a very simple person. He did not make too many clothes for himself and seemed oblivious of the fashion trends. I remember my elder brother, Abid, used to get clothes made for him sometimes.

Abbajan passed away when we were all very young, leaving Ammi alone to look after us all. Now that Ammi has also passed away; we realize that after Abba, she was both a mother and father to us. Instead of giving in to her personal grief of losing such a loving husband and breaking down, she silently resolved to be strong and courageous for all of us. In the long, lonely years that followed, she was a pillar of strength for us. She kept us all united and lovingly sheltered us from all problems and worries. She carried herself with grace and dignity throughout her life. In hindsight, we can see that, besides her own wonderful qualities, she had unconsciously become a mirror image of Abbajan in truthfulness, honesty, and strength of character.

We are indeed very fortunate to have been blessed with two exceptionally great parents like Abbajan and Ammijan."



Major General Riaz with Gen Zia-ul-Haq



Major General M. Riaz Khan (Late)



27. PA 2722 (GC-196) Lt Zafar Hashmat

Zafar Hashmat, S/O K.S. Hashmat Ali, was born on 25.1.1929. He belonged to 85, Clive Road, Allahabad, India. On migration to Pakistan, he was selected for the 1st PMA Long Course and joined PMA, Kakul. On Commissioning, he joined 6th Lancers.



28. PA 2723 (GC-170) Brig Jahanzeb Khan Bangash

Jehanzeb Khan Bangash S/O Ghulam Naqshband Khan was born on 10.9.1929. He belonged to Sebi Mohallah, Hangu, Kohat. On Commissioning he joined 12th Frontier Force Regiment.



29. PA 2724 (GC-169) Maj Gen Azhar Ali Syed

Azhar Ali Syed S/O Maratib Ali Shah was born on 22.2.1929. He belonged to 22, Nano Street, Shamnagar, Chaburji, Lahore. On commissioning, he joined P.E.M.E.



30. PA 2725 (GC-163) Lt Gen Dr Ghulam Safdarr Butt

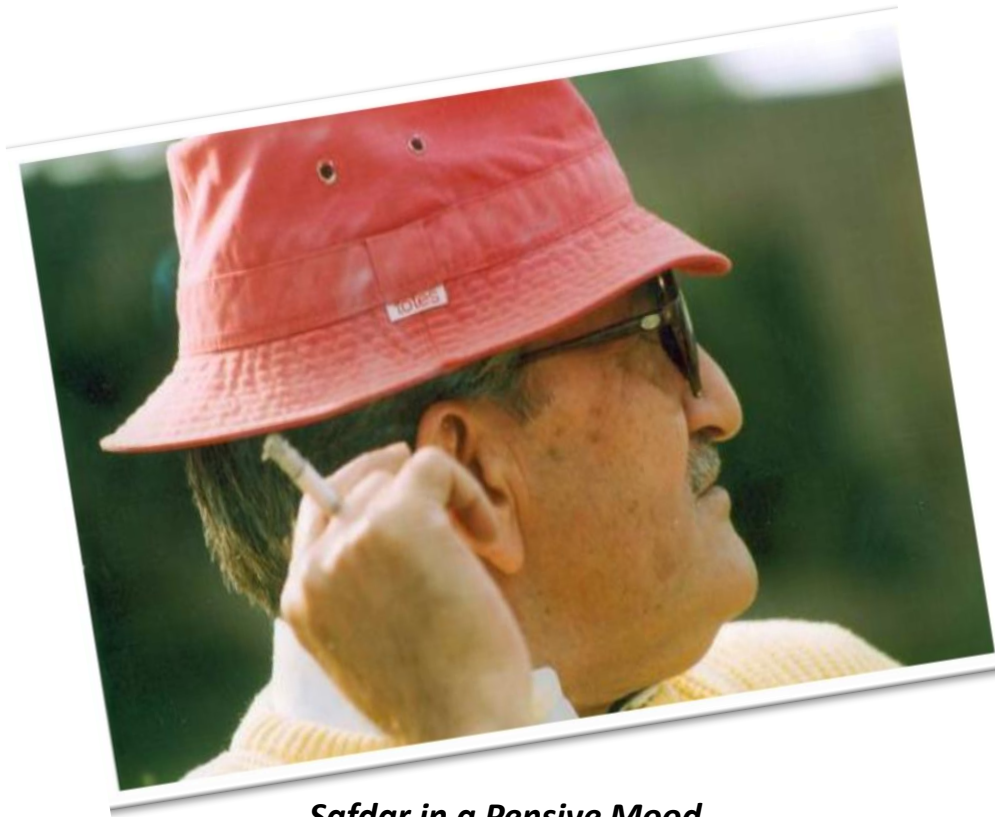
Ghulam Safdar Khan S/O Muhammad Ghulam Haider was born on 13.3.1928. He lived on Sathan Street, Bhatti Gate, Lahore. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Engineers



A family photograph of Lt Gen G. S. Butt



Always with a Smiling Face



Safdar in a Pensive Mood

**Ghulam S. Butt, CE 1965 M.S., 1967 Ph.D.,
Rawalpindi, Pakistan**

Major General Butt has made a unique and dramatic contribution to the field of civil engineering, the construction of the Karakoram Highway. The highway runs for 500 miles laterally and ranges over 25 miles of altitude changes from Rawalpindi, Pakistan through the Indus River gorge, the Karakoram Range, and finally across the 16,188 foot Khunjarab Pass into China, through the highest and most rugged terrain in the world, at a total project cost of over \$375 million. In addition to the engineering aspects of such an accomplishment, Dr. Butt has also considered the human aspects. Construction of the highway battled not only extreme engineering conditions, but the intermittent hostilities of the local tribesmen, a very private, independent people who are fierce fighters. The highway is sure to force enormous changes on the tribesmen as its use increases. Anticipating the impact that travelers and commerce along the highway will have on these tribesmen, he has set up stores and hospitals and temporarily manned them with NCOs, thereby hoping to ease the transition by making it more attractive. Other major projects in Dr. Butt's career include the Lowari Tunnel, the Chitral Highway, and the 550-mile petroleum products pipeline from the Karachi port to upcountry.



**Rowland M. Cannon, IE 1936 B.S., Richland,
Washington**

Mr. Cannon, president and chief executive officer of U and I, Inc. (formerly Utah-Idaho Sugar Company), continues a long and successful career that has included service in each of the firm's operating districts over a span of 43 years and assignments in engineering, processing, and farm production. During this time he has served as a trustee in the United States Beet Sugar Association, the Sugar Association, and the World Sugar Research Organization. His other activities include serving on the Board of Directors of First Security Corporation of Salt Lake City and the Standard Insurance Company of Portland, Oregon. He is also a member of the Advisory Board to the School of Business at the University of Utah and the Advisory Board to the School of Business at the University of Washington.

The contribution of Brigadier (Later Lt Gen) Safdar Butt was most outstanding. He had earlier done his Doctorate of Engineering on Soil Mechanics and Foundations, from Iowa University, USA in 1967. This study that he had carried out in collaboration with two of his American Colleagues, had also been used in the first landing on the moon. A unique distinction and for which we all are proud. As a Lieutenant Colonel he had commanded an engineer battalion on Karakoram Highway Project. He used his full expertise and experience that he had earlier built up industriously and through hard efforts. He had groomed himself into a practical engineer, who had vision of thought and knack of practical application. He had in all three tenures on this project and made his singular contribution in the work on this project of most strategic importance to Pakistan. An acknowledgement of his efforts is adequately reflected in the College of Engineering, Iowa State University Bulletin Volume 4. No 1, April 1980. It gave his work and achievements an international recognition.

Later he was handed over the responsibility of making the Lowari Tunnel. He carried out all the preliminary work of feasibility, design of systems, raising of organization and planning for this first project of its kind to be handled by the Army. It entailed a construction of 8 KM long tunnel and 250 KM long road through the Hindukush Mountains. The joke about this tunnel is that while Mahmud was visiting him in his office, he was briefing his officers, that to expedite the work, tunneling will be started from both the ends.

Mahmud made a spontaneous remark, *In your anxiety for speedy work do not end up with two tunnels.* He started the works at both the ends, but due to lack of adequate funds, much to his dislike, this project was shelved. In 1976 he was promoted as Major General and took over as Director General Frontier Works Organization. He again excelled in his work and displayed a remarkable sense of duty and purpose. He would have continued to fruitfully work in that capacity, but for two incidents took place that changed things. The first was the innocent participation of his daughter Mahrukh, in a demonstration along with her college students, against General Zia's dictatorial regime. The second incident was more personal. General Zia had introduced his friend Mr. Shaifta Khan to Major General Safdar Butt at a private dinner at his house, where he asked him to look into a very interesting construction proposal that he had brought from Japan. Safdar sensing something, called Brigadier Mahmud who had by now left the Army, to come to his office the next day. As Mr. Shaifta arrived, he laid out a brochure before Major General Safdar Butt and enthusiastically started to explain the revolution that this machinery would bring in construction techniques. Safdar calmly opened the drawers of his table and put before him several brochures of the same kind of machinery being marketed from all over the world. While Mr. Shaifta was still looking at the brochures, he was given a general idea of the price of that kind of machinery. Major General Safdar told him that if you can match that offer, I would be interested. This suddenly shook Mr. Shaifta Khan. In a bewildered sense of expression, he started to impress that his machinery is much more sophisticated and has a price tag which is much higher. He was politely told by Safdar that he cannot agree to accept that high a cost. That ended the meeting. Soon after. Major General Safdar Butt was posted out of FWO to a new project in Karachi as Managing Director of PARCO, which was to pump all the oil products of Refineries in Karachi, which was still in the offing. It was a proposed plan to lay down several hundred miles of pipeline for the pumping of POL products up North.

He again worked in all earnest and with full devotion to start this project, did all the work of planning, securing all the finances and eventually successfully completing it. He again made a mark for himself, which was appreciated and admired by all and sundry.



Lt Gen Ghulam Safdar Butt receiving the award from Gen K.M. Arif

Shangri-La

This article, with some minor alterations, is reprinted with permission from the April, 1980 issue of the *Marston Muses*. Our thanks to Mary Stuve of the Muses for her help and permission in running this feature. Our thanks also to Professor Richard Handy who is a close friend of General Butt and who provided the original material for both articles.

The highest highway in the world has been constructed under the direction of an Iowa State graduate.

Ghulam Safdar Butt, who earned his M.S. in 1965 and his Ph.D. in 1967 from Iowa State, has directed a team of 600 engineers and 25,000 workmen on the Karakoram Highway in Pakistan.

The highway is 500 miles long, 25 miles up and down and crosses the 16,188 foot Khunjerab Pass into China. The project was under construction for 20 years and cost \$375 million.

Two thousand years ago this road, called the Silk route, was the primary land route to China from the west. Chinese pilgrims described the wooden ladders and wedges used along these trackless mountain walls and the willow rope bridges spanning the swirling torrents in 300 A.D. chronicles. For centuries, the silk, tea and jade caravans traveled this torturous trail through the highest mountain ranges in the world.

Throughout the centuries, men had dreamed of a road between China and the fertile plains of the Indus River, but the harsh and inhospitable mountain ranges thwarted them. The area is unlike any other in the placement of its

mountains, the profusion of its glaciers, the density of its lofty peaks and the desolation of its gorges. Within the area four mountain ranges crisscross.

There are troublesome stretches of glacial morrain and highly unstable scree and colluvium deposits which collapse without forewarning. This region is frequently subjected to intense seismic activity. The Pattan earthquake, in December, 1975, loosed numerous landslides which blocked the road for two weeks. In Hunza, twelve glaciers immediately adjacent to the road are a constant threat.

In 1971, part of Batura glacier came down the valley and destroyed a large-span concrete bridge. In 1973, Mamlul glacier activated a massive mudflow which blocked the Hunza River at Shishkat, forming a lake ten miles long, and burying the bridge under 60 feet of silt. The terror of glacier movements and mudflows in summer is replaced by the threat of avalanches in winter.

Equally unpredictable are the local tribesmen. On his initial reconnaissance, Butt was stopped by armed tribesmen. He learned enough of the local Dardic language to earn their respect and permission to enter, but throughout the entire construction period spontaneous skirmishes occurred. After these conflicts, Butt would go unarmed to their village and join them in prayers for the dead on both sides.

Butt recognizes the impact of a paved highway on the future of these people, and while not specifically his responsibility, he has set up stores and hospitals for the local tribesmen, temporarily manning them with NCO's. By

doing this he hopes to ease the transition by making the change attractive. For example, he introduced the people to colorful cotton prints. Previously they wore only wool and moved up the mountain to keep cool in the summer.

The Karakoram Highway started as a modest project in 1959. One battalion of Pakistan Army Engineers began construction of 155 miles of single-lane road, the Indus Valley Road from Swat to Chilas. Karora was the starting point in Swat. The road to Karora was 25 miles of dirt track with low classification wooden bridges over the snowbound Shangla Pass.

It took two weeks for men and materials to reach the starting point. There, a footpath too narrow for donkeys provided access to the work sites. Therefore, along those paths soldiers carried, on their backs, all the supplies and equipment needed for each day's work.

The 1965 war with India interrupted road construction. The battalion was transferred to the battlefield. By that time, 140 miles had been completed.

After that war, the Pakistani Government decided to extend the road to the Chinese border and to raise the specification to class 70—two-lanes, 32' wide with 20' pavement width. This was to be the Karakoram Highway. The Army Engineers were entrusted with the project.

The Chinese agreed to build a similar highway on their side of the border; the two would join at the Khunjerab Pass. They also offered assistance in the form of construction machinery and bridging equipment.

In 1967, construction was started simultaneously from four different cities. There was no road for transporting trucks and heavy equipment. During the first two years, the Pakistan Air force airlifted 10,000 tons of material. Ten battalions (10,000 men) were involved in the construction.

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The procedure was simple. A road link would be hacked out so men, machines and materials could move forward. As the next link was forged, the previous one was widened to full specifications and the temporary bridges were replaced by permanent structures. Road surfacing was the last phase; the time lag allowed the earth to settle.

Though most valley wall slopes were 50-45 degrees, some smooth rock slopes were as steep as 70 degrees. Setting the first explosive charges involved technical climbing with ropes, pitons, chocks and carabiners. Butt, founder of the Pakistan Alpine Club, often set these initial charges.

A pilot cut was made by controlled blasting and then widened to the required width. Air compressors used for the initial cut had to be disassembled, carried to the site by men or donkeys, then reassembled. Many unconnected cuts were made simultaneously. In rocky stretches, progress was measured in yards per month. In many steep sections, the road is a "half-tunnel" underneath a broad overhang.

War with India again interrupted road construction. In November, 1971. By then, 400 miles had been completed and 80 percent had been widened to full specifications. The bridges, protective works and surfacing remained to be done.

After the war, China sent 9500 skilled laborers to help complete construction. In 1974, construction began in earnest. The Chinese laborers and 5000 Pakistanis worked on the Thakot to Hunza section; another 5000 Pakistanis completed the Thakot to Havelian link.

This group completed 70 bridges, seven across main rivers. Bridge construction was tricky. The area contains five of the seven largest valley glaciers in the world, so unpredictable glacial surges can take out bridges, temporarily dam the rivers and inundate the road. When the ice dam breaks, a

torrent of glacial meltwater is released to flood and untip the road support(s) downstream.

In addition, the road traverses an area which is tectonically active. Each site differed, so each bridge is unique. The highway includes steel plate girder, precast concrete, prestressed concrete arch, and suspension bridges. Most of the small bridges are the arch type with concrete precast in a yard and assembled on site.

The target date for completion of the highway was 1978. This was a period of intense construction activity. The road had to be widened to full width, all the retaining walls and protective works had to be completed, culverts and bridges secured (placed).

Through the entire project, the philosophy was to disrupt nature as little as possible and still achieve the highway. On a job so mammoth that twenty quarries were being worked simultaneously and truckloads of explosives were required each day this sounds incongruous. The answer is perhaps in the scale; the highway is scarcely more than a thumbnail scratch on the landscape.

The unusual terrain and the accident-rate probability discouraged private contractors from bidding on any segment of this project. Thirty-two requests for bids on one bridge were let; there

were no responses. But decreed safety precautions paramount. Hardhats were always worn. Each piece of earth-moving equipment had an operator and an observer. Each work crew had a full-time lookout, upon whose signal workers dropped everything and evacuated the site.

Casualties were evacuated by a fleet of helicopters which were located close to major work sites. Equipment accidents were responsible for most of the casualties, but some resulted from landslide and from attacks by local tribesmen. During the project there were 400 fatalities. Five thousand Pakistanis provided logistic support which included hospitals, workshops, warehouses, transportation fleets, administration and headquarters. Theirs was also a frustrating job. Often the road could be kept open for only one week per month; supplies for work crews were obtained and transported during that week. Sometimes blasting, rain or landslide would close the road for longer durations, necessitating airlift of the supplies.

What was for centuries was a dream is today a monumental reality. The Karakoram Highway—500 miles of two-lane pavement permitting sustained truck speeds of 50 mph through

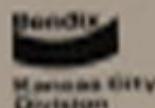
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TECHNOLOGY \geq STATE OF THE ART

Bendix Kansas City Division, a prime contractor with the Department of Energy, has been manufacturing and procuring components for the national defense program since 1949.

We will be interviewing engineering and computer science graduates on campus during the fall and spring semesters.

Check with your placement office for sign-up schedules.



"We Speak Technology"

1. Khaled Ahmed (Friend)**Remembering General Butt:**

General Safdar Butt, ex-WAPDA chief and a general with a PhD in engineering, was known for his work earlier on the Karakoram Highway (KKH), Lowari Tunnel and PARCO gas/oil pipeline. On 2 June 2004, just before the Basha Dam feasibility was to go public, he wrote a letter to President Pervez Musharraf about the risks involved in the building of Basha Dam. He avoided discussion of Basha's location within the seismic zone perhaps because he knew that the president had dismissed the objections earlier saying that Kalabagh too was located in a seismic zone. He prefaced his letter by saying that he had differences with the WAPDA consultants who were inclined to approve the plan to build Basha.

As a former boss of WAPDA who had also handled the Karakoram Highway problems, he could hardly be ignored. He was sceptical about the Basha feasibility studies prepared by the engineers working for WAPDA. The Dam was planned to be 920 feet high above bedrock at a cost of nearly \$6.5 dollars, yielding an annual water storage of 7 million acre feet (MAF) and generating 4,500 megawatts of hydroelectricity starting 2015. General Butt thought that some of the feasibility projections were too rosy. He thought that a note of caution should be struck, especially as most people in Pakistan were thinking of Basha as an alternative to Kalabagh.

Khaled Ahmed
Consulting Editor Newsweek Pakistan
Associated House- 4th Floor 7 Egerton Road
Lahore Phone (Direct) 36313350

2. Mahrukh Butt (Daughter)**My father Lt-Gen Ghulam Safdar Butt**

I don't know where to start writing from, there is much to write about, and he was my father and the whole world for me. One thing I would like to mention that He was very open minded and liberal about female education, in the 1980's he sent me to a co-education college National College of arts, Lahore.to study Architecture. Later I and my sister were both send abroad to pursue higher education.

I remember in 1979 when he was posted in Karachi at PARCO, he used to go for shikar in interior Sindh, I used to accompany him together with other men. I remember I went with him a few times for partridge hunt, and I made few kills. I think he never differentiated between his son and his daughters.

He used to say whatever you do, do it whole heartedly, put all your heart to it, and finish it till the end.

As he he was a living example for that. I remember as a child if he said something to me it would always be done. Also once I was grown up he was one person I could rely on for everything.

3. Salman Butt (son of Sarwar Butt Nephew)
Lt. Gen. Dr Ghulam Safdar Butt was my Taya Jan!

The world already knows about a lot about Taya Jan's professional achievements; therefore I'll keep mine personal, but one that had a huge impact!

Taya Jan was obviously looked up to because of his enormous achievements, but he was also one who injected life and emotion to all family gatherings but also in one on one personal meetings. He loved having personalized discussions with the kids in family, encouraging them with his guidance, supporting them and showing them their potential!

I remember when I was at school and was captain of the cricket team, we planned a cricket tour of England. Taya Jan was Chairman PCB at the time and I obviously reached out to him for support. He sent me to Haseeb Ahsan who was chief selector of the Pakistan Team at the time. With Haseeb's guidance on how to raise commercial funding we were able to do the "first off-shore cricket tour of the Karachi Grammar School Cricket Team!" Till many years after that tour, Taya Jan kept introducing me to people in his upbeat style as the first "Pakistan Team Captain to tour England," at which I used to get very embarrassed as it was factually incorrect, which he knew as well but continued to do so!

The cricket tour of KGS was my first experience at sports marketing, which eventually led me to create the National T20 and the PSL for the PCB by the Grace of the Almighty. This is what Taya Jans' encouragement and reinforcement of my efforts did for me as a youngster, giving me the confidence to do something much bigger later in life! Such was my Taya Jan!

Who was Safdar Butt?

My first memory of my father was during the 1971 war, when he was a brigade commander. He had come from the war front to tell my mother to take the kids to Faislabad away from Lahore. He has always been my ideal human being, as he was always kind to those in need, loyal to his friends and family, and tough to his opponents. He never said no to anyone in distress who came to him for help. To this day, he remains a source of inspiration and guidance for me.

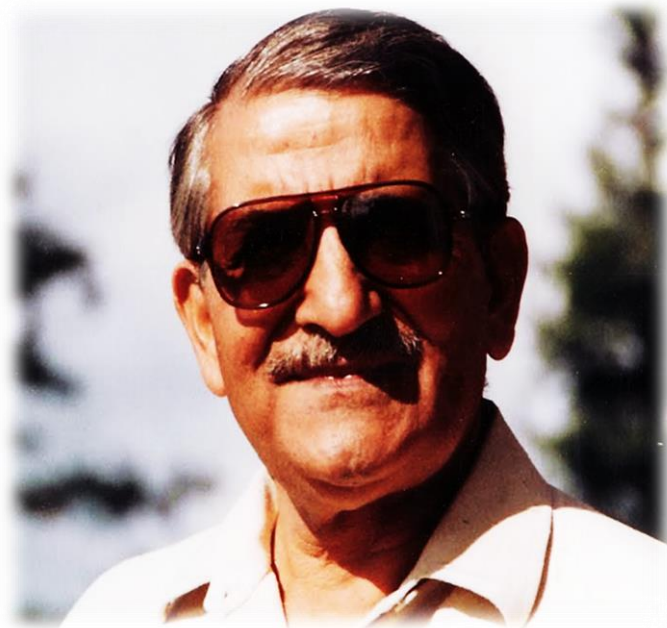
I was always impressed by the dedication and hard work of the man I saw working relentlessly through the nights in FWO, LTO, PARCO and WAPDA. From the time he retired from the army and continued working in his private capacity to provide for the family, he was never deterred and always cheerful, with a solution for every problem. I can only admire his determination and commitment to his family and his work. He is a true inspiration to us all.

One of the saddest I have seen him was at the demise of his mother, whom he loved dearly.

My father's formative years were spent at Bhatti Gate; his father was an engineer for the Sindh Public Works Department constructing the Guddu Barrage. During this time, Abu was the man of the house, taking care of his ten siblings and mother. He excelled in school, but was especially talented in sports, particularly boxing. He was part of the boxing team at MAO School and later at Government College, where he participated in regional matches and achieved great success. He continued boxing throughout his stay at the academy.

It is admirable that he was able to balance his studies and sports, while also looking after his family. His commitment to his studies and his family is truly inspiring.

During the Partition of the sub-continent, he became a student leader and established camps for Muslim refugees who were crossing over from India. One camp in particular, near the Lahore Railway Station, was something he could never forget. It was there that he received the train of slaughtered Muslims, the slaughter having been carried out by Sikhs. He refused to shake hands with a Sikh until he became Chairman of the BCCP and during the Reliance Cup. Even then, he would greet them from afar unless he was forced to confront the situation. His actions demonstrate his commitment to justice and his unwavering dedication to helping those in need. The gist of his achievements is very well explained in the book but I wanted to add a few incidents and opinions about what made Gen Safdar Butt the great man that he was.



Safdar Tayajan

I have nothing but admiration for my father's elder brother. His charismatic personality, beautiful heart, alluring face, and strong intellect were simply incomparable. He was a pillar for the family, always ready to lend a helping hand or provide words of wisdom. Every evening, he would take us cycling and then back home for tea, creating a lively atmosphere full of laughter and fun. He was also instrumental in my education, helping me with my Maths and encouraging me to pursue my studies diligently. His last words to me were a reminder of his commitment to the family, and I will always remember them. He was truly a hero to us all and his benign presence will be deeply missed





Safdar Butt's Marriage with Nasreen



Living a Happy Married Life



Lieutenant General Safdar Butt

With General Zia and Lieutenant General Saeed Qadir



Safdar Butt on a Picnic with his Family



31. PA 2726 (GC-230) Lt Col Mohammad Ayaz Khan Wazir

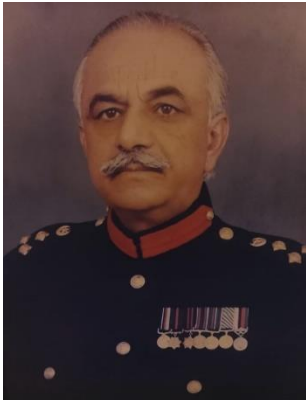
Mohammad Ayaz Khan Wazir S/O Mohammad Modat Khan was born 8.11.1928. He belonged to Tock Agency Nethase, Mir Ali, North Waziristan. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Engineers.



32. PA 2727 9GC-174) Brig Dildar Rana

Dildar Rana S/O of K.B. Major Talia Mohammad Khan was born on 24.8.1926. His father was Advisor Amb State. He lived his early life at Darband Kirpilian, Hazara.

In Commemoration of Brigadier Dildar Rana



Brigadier Dildar Rana PA 2727 was born on 24 August 1926 in Hungu where his father Khan Bahadur Rana Talia Muhammad Khan O.E.B., who hailed from Hariyana East Punjab, was Superintendent Police. Being in police service his father was posted to different locations of Frontier province and was also first Muslim Inspector General of Police of state of Patiala. Dildar Rana was sent to an elite 'The Doon School 'Dehradun at an early age where he stayed in boarding till his Matric.

He did his first year of college education from Islamia College Peshawar & second year from Gordan College Rawalpindi from there he joined Pakistan Military Academy in FIRST PMA LONG COURSE. He was the younger brother of Lt General Bakhtiar Rana Corps Comd & MLA West Pakistan.

He was commissioned in 15 FF Regiment and was the first original/Pakistani officer of the unit when it was engaged in Kashmir war in 1948. In 1960, he was posted to PMA as GSO-2 (cord) from where he went to Fort Benning, USA, for a company commander course and rejoined 15 FF in Quetta. In 1965 war he saw action in Chamb Jaurian. He was posted to command 11 FF Regt. after 1965 war. Thereafter he remained GSO-1 & Col Staff 10 Division in Lahore. He was posted as Brigade Commander 6 AK Brigade, Bagh in 1971 and saw action in 1971 war. During 1971 war his Bde successfully defended Haji Pir Pass which the Indians had infiltrated and occupied in 1965 war. He was posted as COS 1 Corps in 1973 and thereafter went for NDC in 1975, from where he was posted as Commander 107 Brigade in Gujranwala. He was approved as a Major General and remained Acting GOC 37 Division for 6 months. However, he split with General Zia ul Haq and was bypassed in next promotion board. Brigadier Dildar Rana retired in 1979 from Gujranwala. He remained busy in farming his ancestral land in Narang and being an ardent golfer, playing 18 holes golf in Gymkhana Lahore.

While in the Army service, he was part of the Army swimming and tennis teams and had quite a few feathers in his cap by winning various tournaments. Brig Dildar Rana also has the honor of overseeing Mangala golf course long after the Americans left. Gujranwala golf course is also his brainchild and he got it made as well. His name is there as honorary member.

Brigadier Dildar Rana left this world for his heavenly abode a little too soon and suddenly. It was on 4 September 1999, just as he would have wanted to, while playing his favourite game of golf on a summer evening.

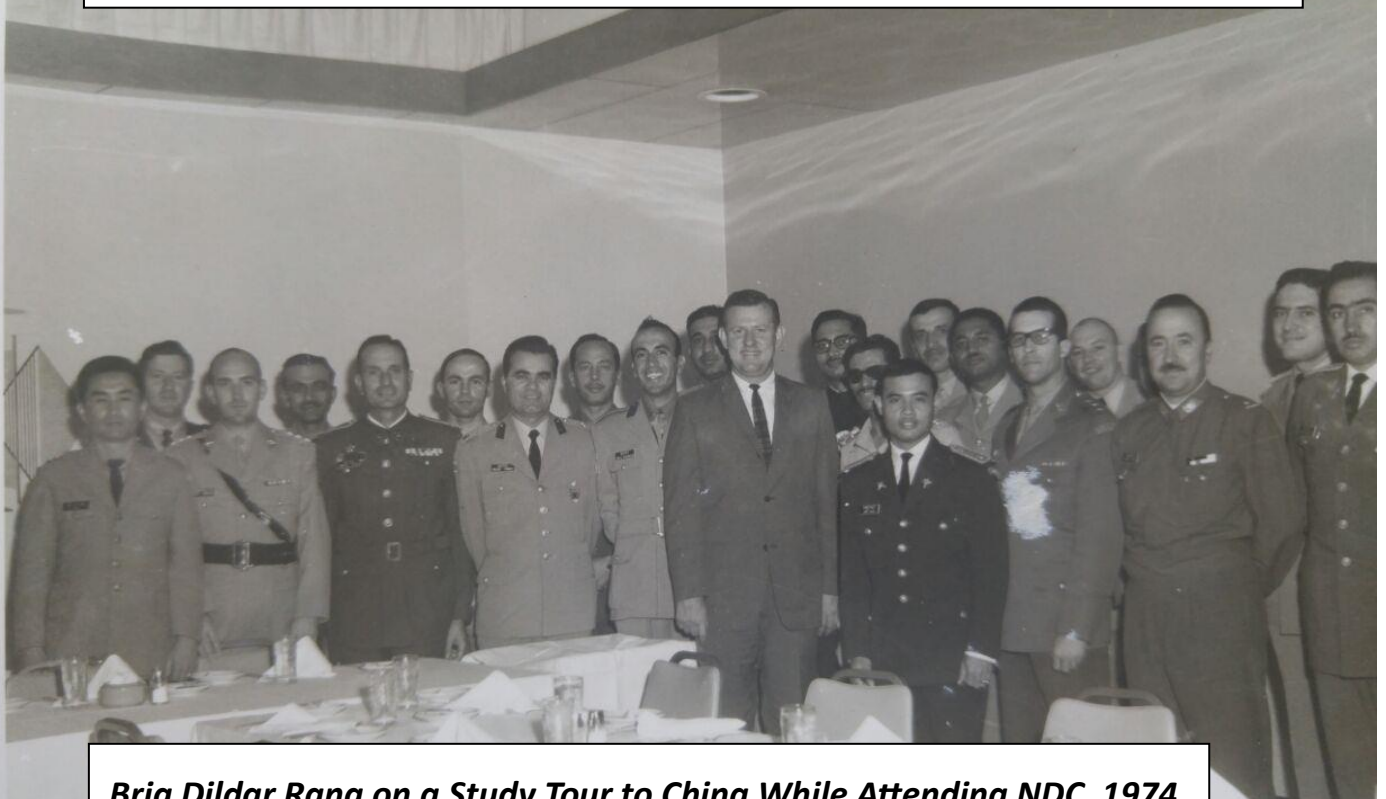
Brigadier Dildar Rana got married very young (as per societal norms of those times) to his first cousin Zubaida Rana, who stood by him through thick & thin steadfastly. She being a passionate hostess, warm & welcoming to friends and family equally, was well known for her loving hospitality! Apart from being a dedicated wife, she proved to be a wonderful, courageous, loving, and inspirational mother.

Brigadier Dildar Rana is survived by two sons and two daughters. Eldest son is a renowned businessman & is mostly in Dallas USA. Younger son Col Zulfiqar Rana joined 11 FF Regiment and also commanded it like his father. He retired as a Col & is settled in Lahore. He is an illustrious Agriculturist and an ardent golfer like his father. His elder daughter is married to Capt Sohail Rana 1 FF Regt. who left army as a Capt & is a renowned businessman in Lahore. The younger daughter Tahira Rana was married to Capt Tanvir Ahmed Khan 10 FF Regt. Who retired as a Brigadier & was conferred Sitara e Jurat while commanding 5 NLI Bn in Kargil. Tahira Tanvir is a well-known educationist & is running her private chain of schools in Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Lahore.

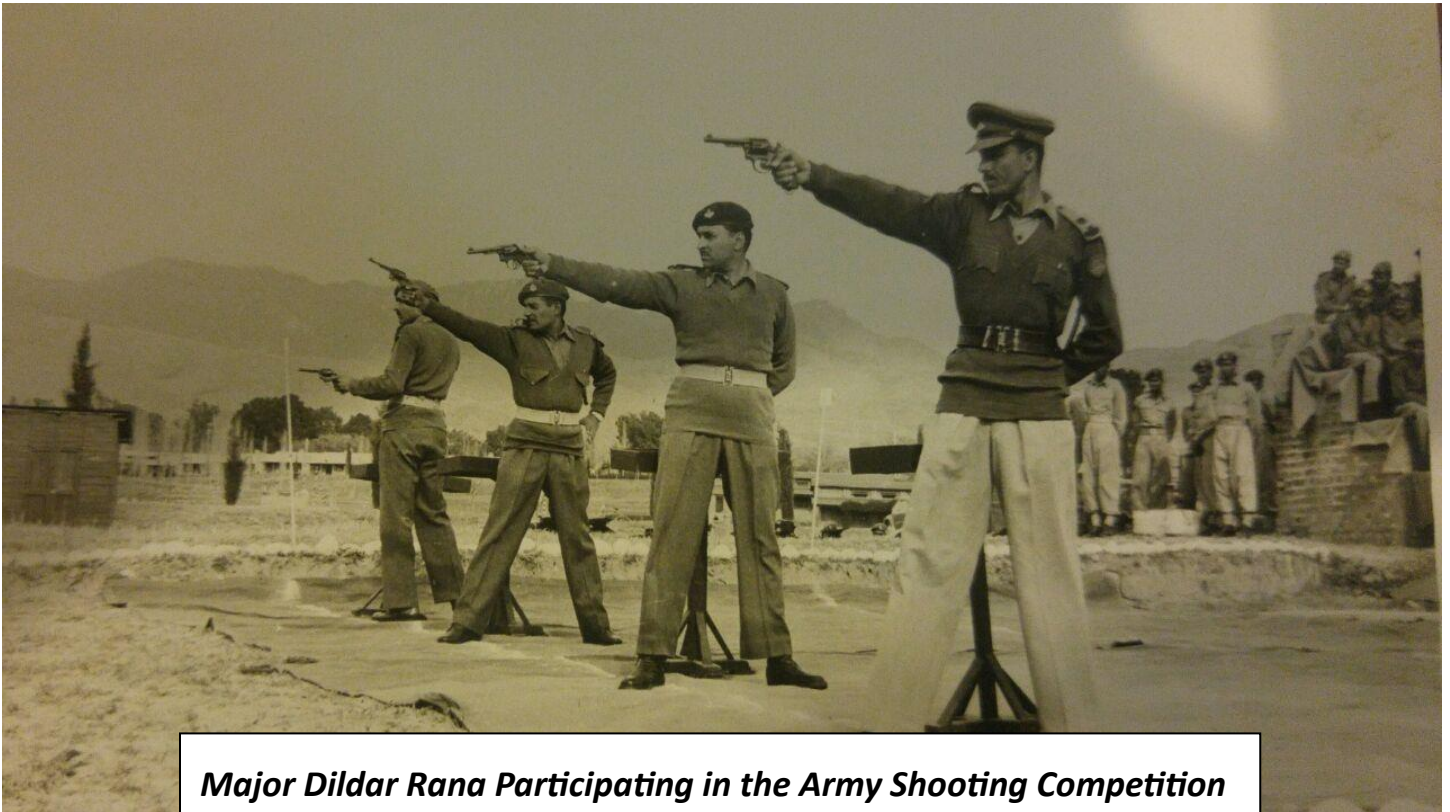




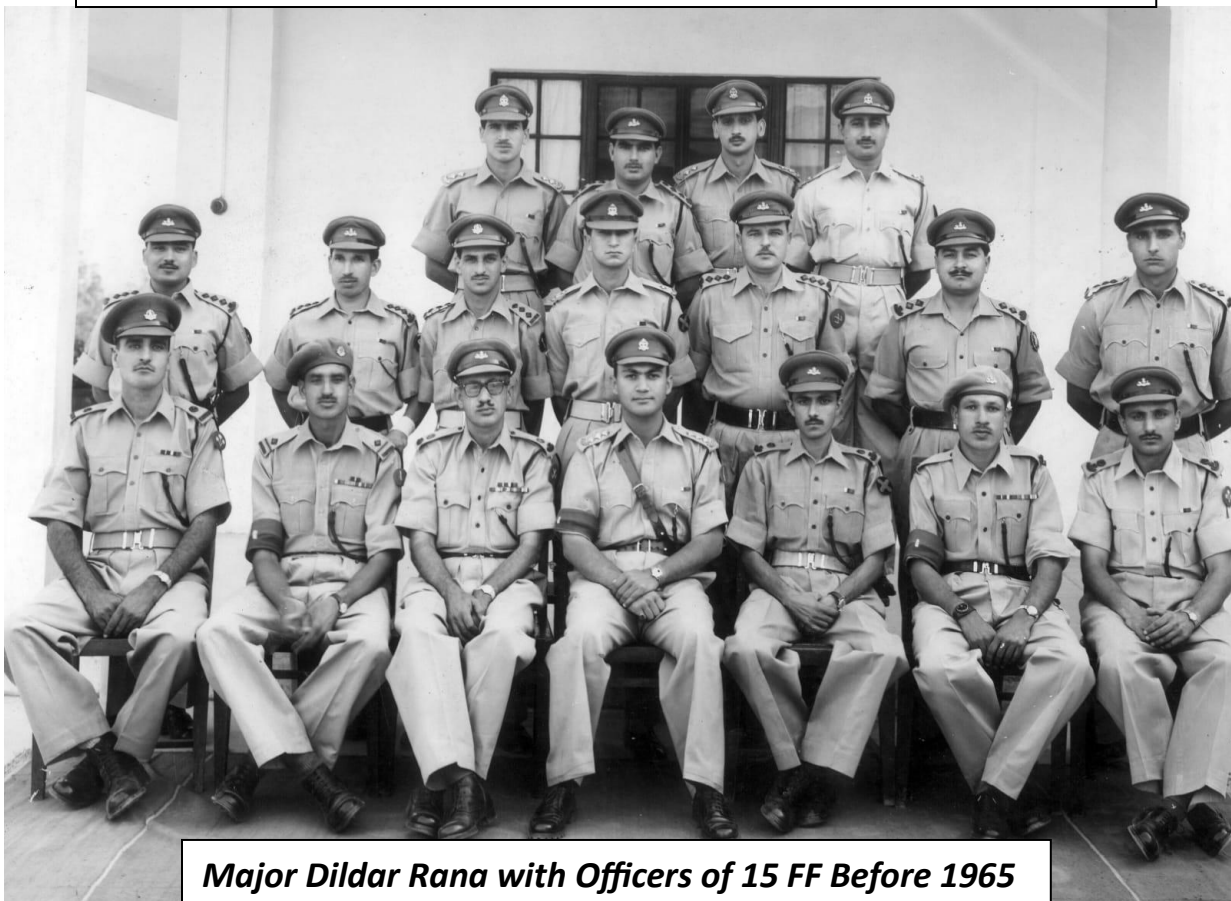
Major Dildar Rana While on a Course At Fort Benning, Georgia, USA, 1964



Brig Dildar Rana on a Study Tour to China While Attending NDC, 1974



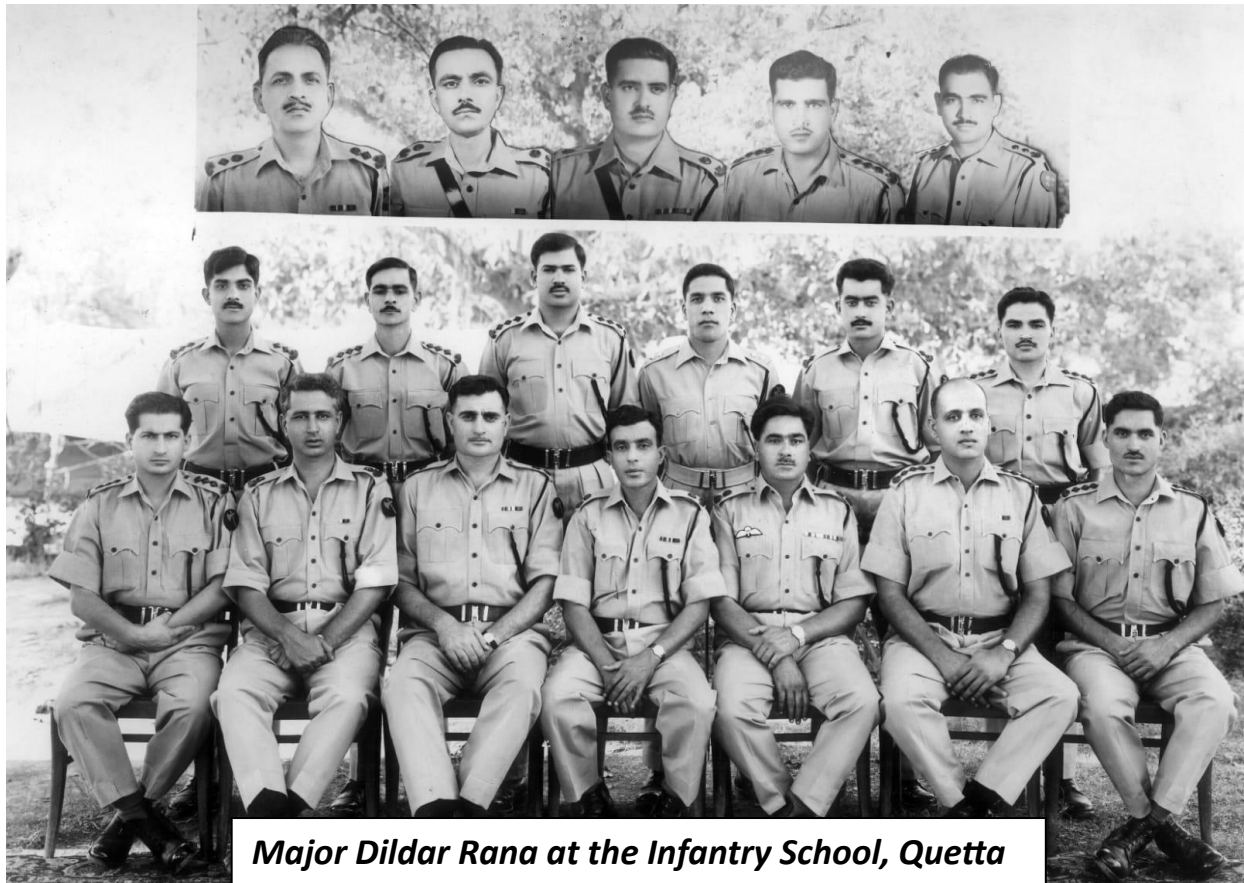
Major Dildar Rana Participating in the Army Shooting Competition



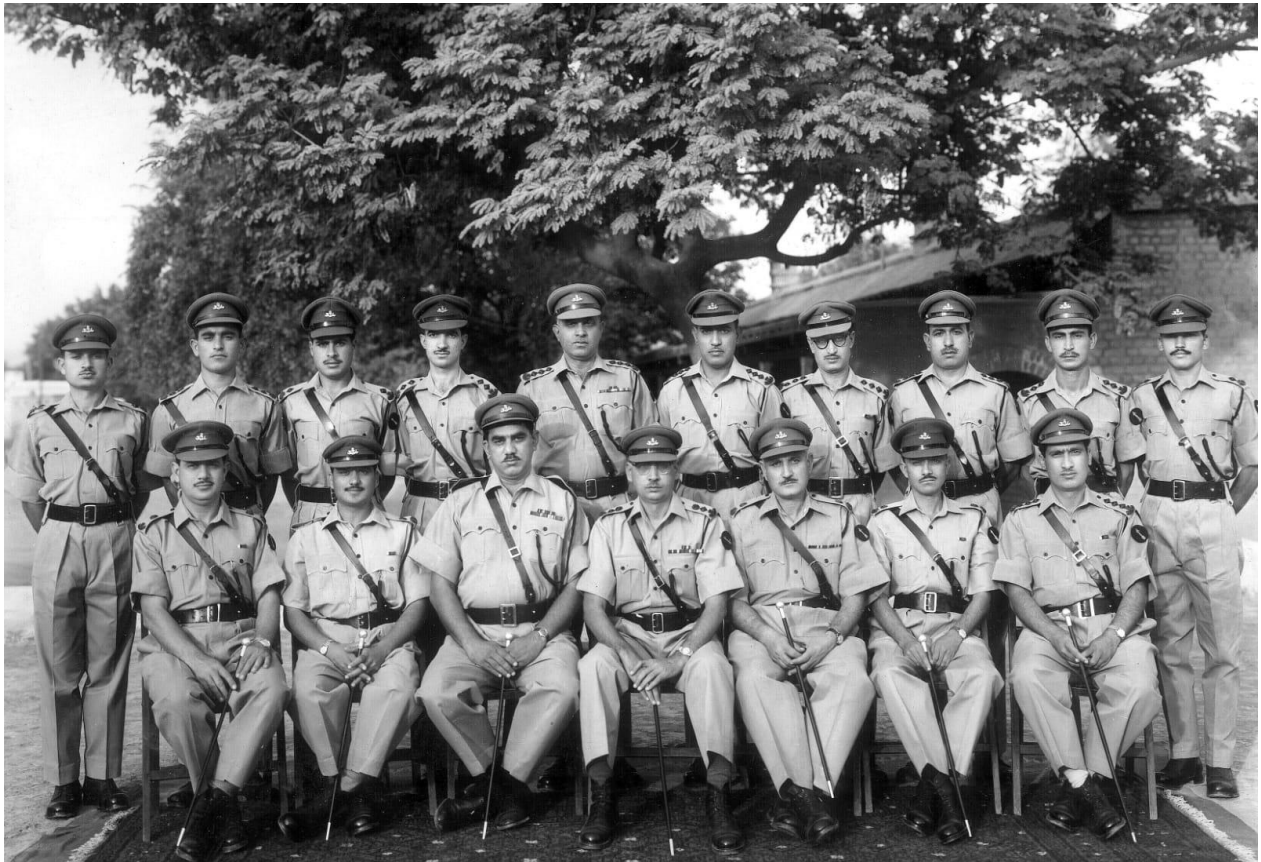
Major Dildar Rana with Officers of 15 FF Before 1965



Brig Dildar Rana While Visiting Great Wall of China While Attending NDC, 1974



Major Dildar Rana at the Infantry School, Quetta



Major Dildar Rana with Officers of 12 FF before proceeding for a Course to Fort Benning, USA, 1964



Brig Dildar Rana in Conversation with General Iqbal at Piffers Re-union, Abbottabad



The Colour Party. GC Akhtar, GC Ijaz and GC Dildar. From Left to Right



33. PA 2728 (GC-249) Capt Asad Khan

Asad Khan S/O Sirdar Mohammad Yasin Khan was born on 24.7.1927. His family had come from Afghanistan, but were settled at 137/C Mayo Road, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined East Bengal Regiment.



34. PA2729 (GC-225) Brig Mir Abdul Naeem Khan

Mir Abdul Naeem Khan S/O Dr Mir Basir was born on 22.6.1929. He belonged to 115 Kodam Bikirn Road, Madras, India. He migrated from India and joined 1st PMA Long Course at PMA, Kakul. On Commissioning he joined 13th F. F. Regiment.



35. PA 2730 (GC-226) Brig Kaleem-Ur-Rahman Mirza

Kaleem-ur-Rahman Mirza S/O Mohammad Masud-ur-Rahman was born on 6.11.1929. He belonged to Upper Malikpura, Abbottabad. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery.



36. PA 2731 (GC-172) Brig Muinuddin Ahmad Faruqui Sitara-e-Imtiaz

Muinuddin Ahmad Faruqui S/O Abdul Sattar Faruqui was born on 26.11.1929. He belonged to 27, Mayo Gardens, Lahore. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.

Brig (Retd) Muin-ud-din Ahmad Faruqui was born on 26th November 1929 in Lucknow, India. His parents were Abdul Sattar Faruqui and Zahida Faruqui. and he was the eldest amongst four siblings. He received his primary education at Sherwood College Nainital, then proceeded to do his matriculation from Government College in Jhelum where his father was posted as an engineer in the

Railways. He obtained his FSc degree from Foreman Christian College, Lahore. Throughout his academic career he excelled in his studies and was known for his command over the English language, he was a voracious reader. During his time in school, he took part in many different extra-curricular activities like hockey, cricket. By the end of his career, he had a master's in science from Staff College. It was his cousin Gen Jamil Faruqui

who influenced him into joining the army. Jamil Faruqui was in the Indian Army at that time and Abba was very impressed by him and wanted to follow in his footsteps. It was also a time of great national spirit and young men like him wanted to help build and protect the new nation. He joined the Pakistan Military Academy in 1947 as a young cadet and during this time forged friendships that would last a lifetime. After graduating from PMA he proceeded to London to get his diploma in Mechanical engineering from Loughborough College. Upon returning to Pakistan his first posting was in Quetta and it was at this time that he married his life partner Yasmeen. His last posting was as Commandant 501 workshop Rawalpindi and he retired in 1984.

Throughout his career in the army he received many awards and medals for his achievements, Tamgha-e-Jang 1965, Sitara-e- Harb 1965, Tamgha-e-jang 1971, Hijri Tamgha 1981 and was also awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1980. He took part in two wars, in 1965 and again in 1971. Abba was posted in Dacca just before the war of 1971 and was heartbroken after the loss of East Pakistan, where he had been posted just before the fall of Dacca. After retiring he served in PITAC and helped develop the industry using new innovations.

Amongst peers he was known for his humility, his ikhlaq and his sense of adventure. He loved to travel and explore new places. After finishing his course in Loughborough College, he and his friend travelled all over Europe on a motorbike. He drove back to Pakistan from Italy with his cousin in a Fiat coming in through the border in Balochistan. He loved taking the whole family on picnics on weekends, and our summer holidays were always spent at some hill station. Road trips were an integral part of our lives, and we roamed all over different parts of Pakistan, staying at army rest houses and messes. I remember a memorable trip with Abba from Quetta to Lahore on our Toyota stopping in different places and having the time of our lives.

Together with his wife Yasmeen, he lived a full life, enjoying his children and grandchildren. As a couple they were known to host the most interesting parties with great food and entertainment. At home he always made sure there was ice cream in the freezer and a sweet in his pocket for all the kids. Till the last day he continued to live his life to the fullest, meeting his friends and family, doing suduko and crossword every single day! Together they had fifty years of marital bliss with turmoils and joys. They were known in their social circles as a very friendly and affable couple.



Saeed Malik and Moin Faruqui



A Group Photograph with Families



Azhar in Conversation with the Younger Generation



Brigadier Moin Farouqi working hard in his office



A Group Photograph at Loughborough College



A view of the Gathering at Golden Jubilee PMA, Kakul



*Moin Shaking hands with
Brigadier Waseem Ahmad
Deputy Commandant*



Those from the 1st PMA Long Course who attended the Golden Jubilee Anniversary, PMA, Kakul



The Course Mates with Families at Golden Jubilee PMA, Kakul



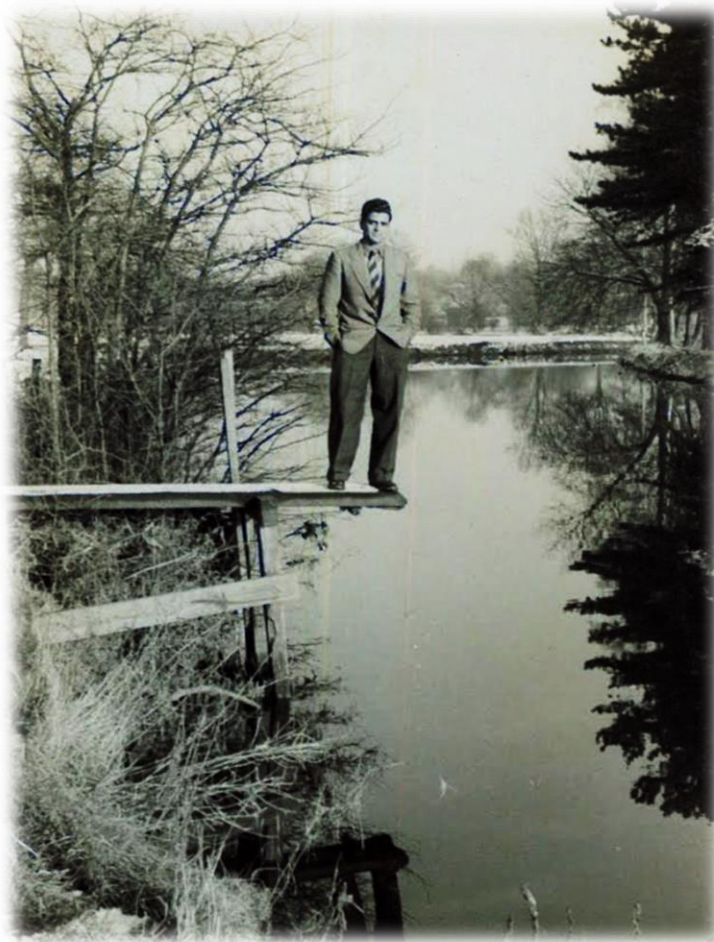
Moin While at Loughborough

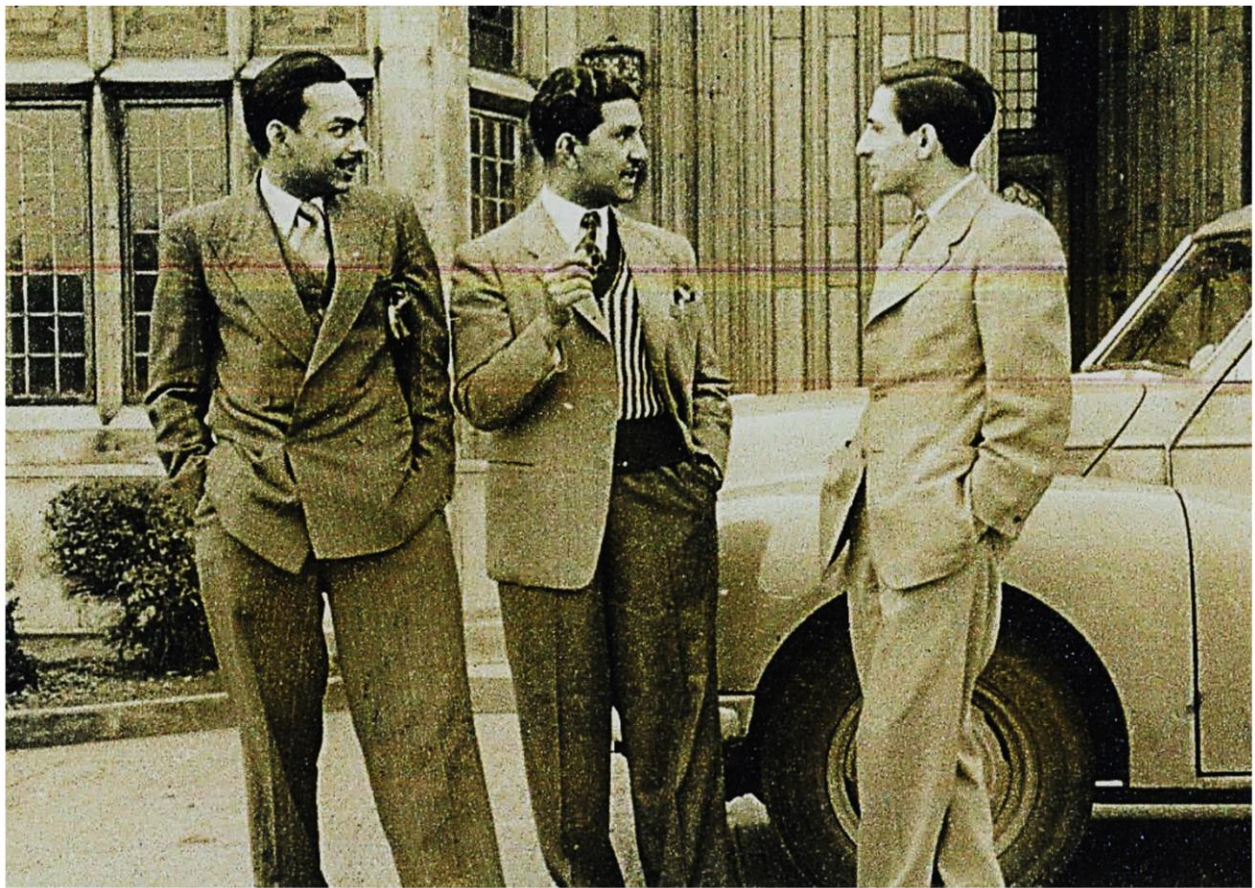


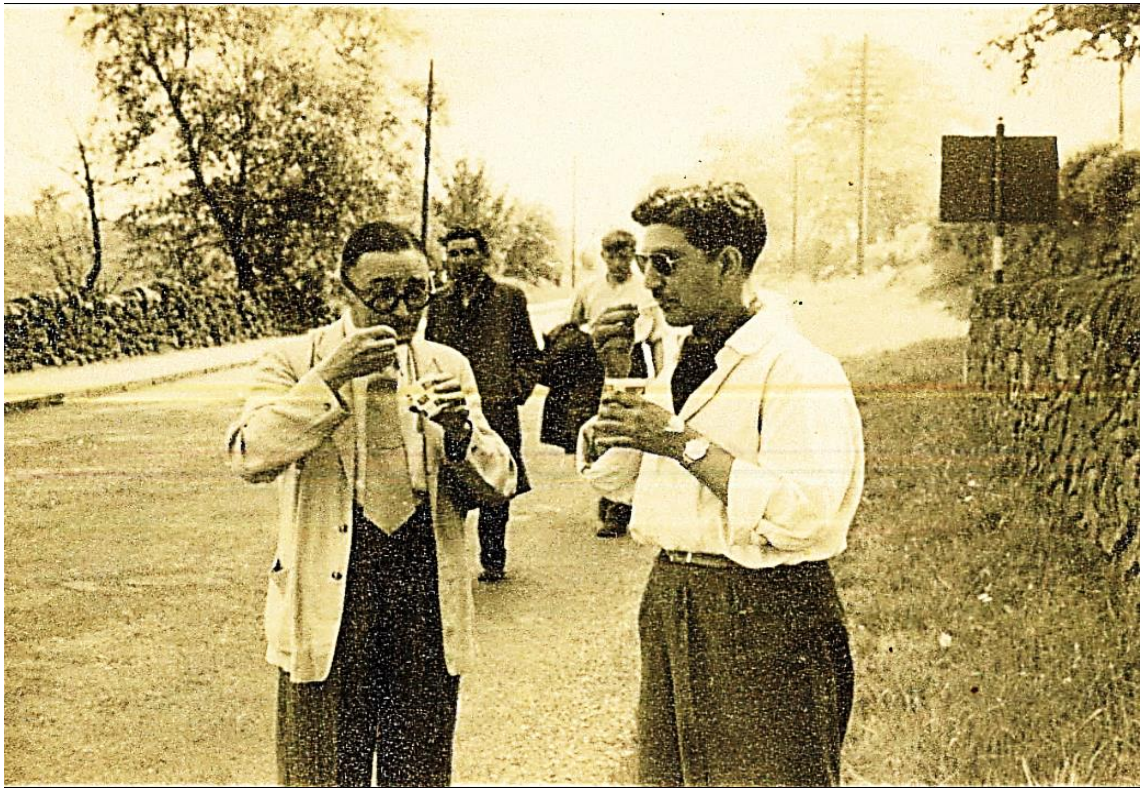
At the Museum in PMA, Kakul



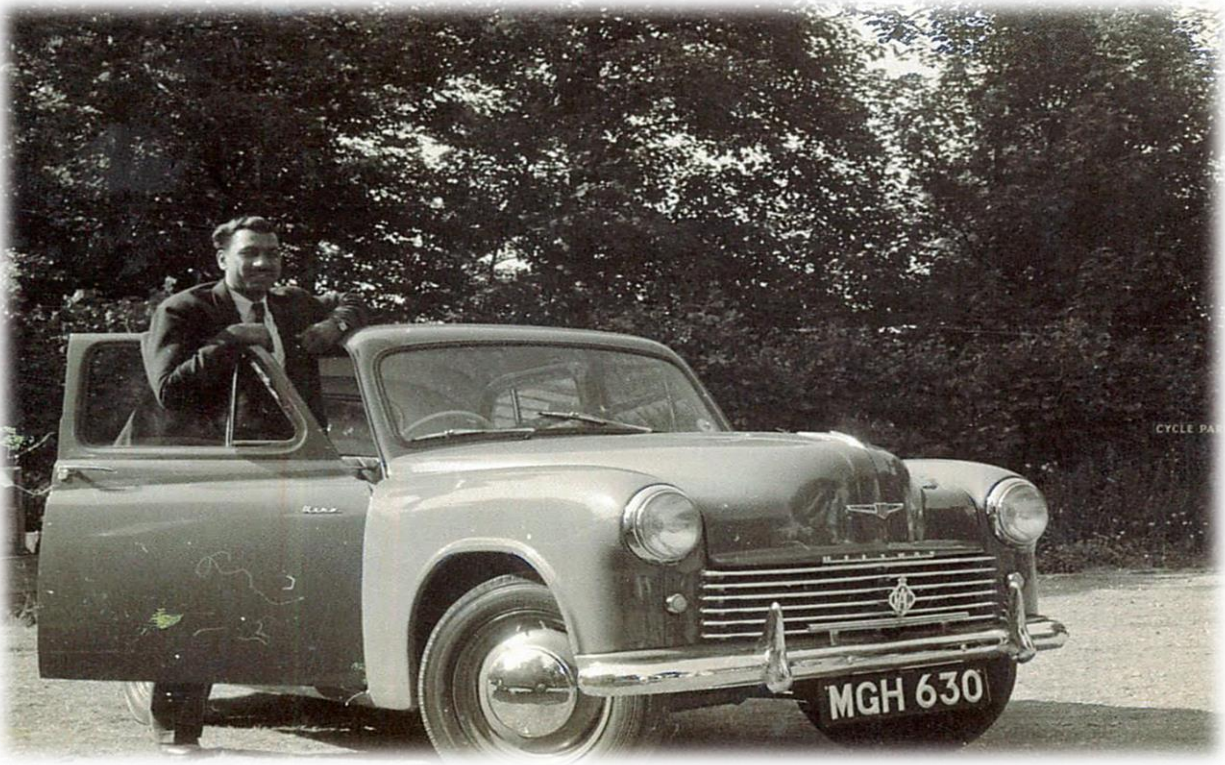
Qazi Moin and Shigri















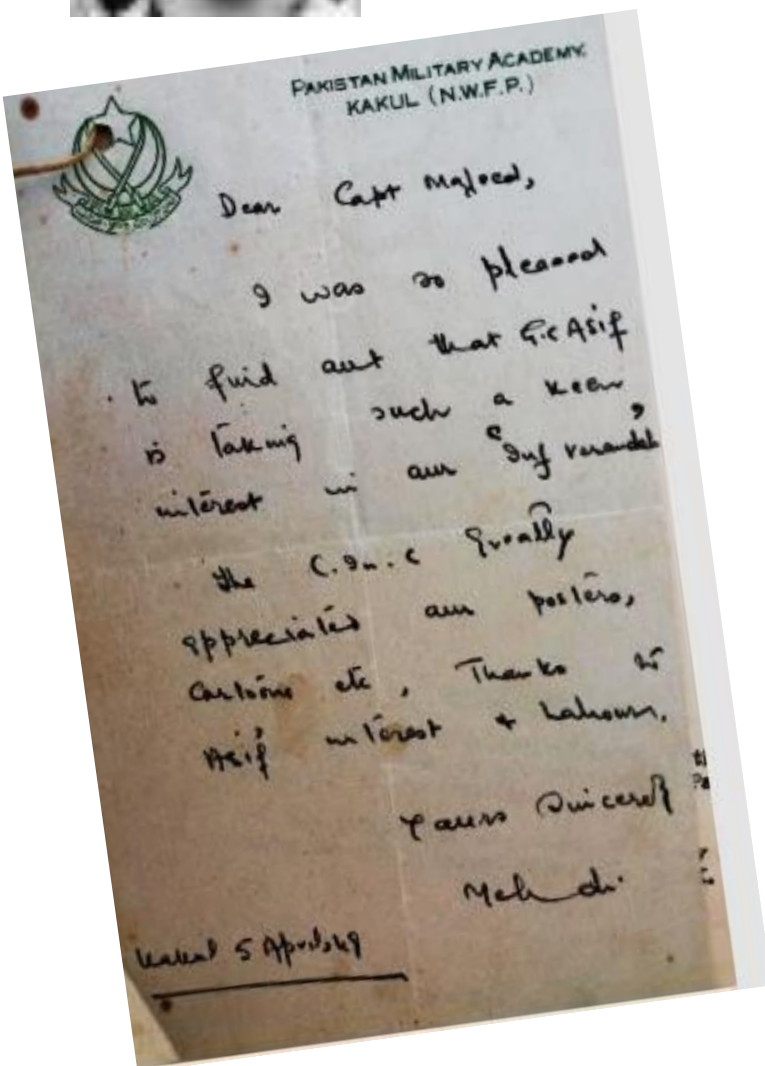
37. PA 2723 (GC-193) Lt Col Aziz-ur-Rahman

Aziz-ur-Rahman S/O (Late) Abdur Rahman was born on 5.4.1926. He belonged to 3/2 Temple Road, Lahore. On Commissioning he joined PAC.



38. PA 2733 (GC-195) Lt Col Asif Ali

Asif Ali S/o Safdar Ali was born on 24.11.1926. He belonged to A/66 Artan Nagar, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.



Asif Ali always carrying a relaxed smile on his face

An EME Officer from 1st PMA Long Course, Lt. Col Asif Ali was born in Delhi on November 24, 1926. His father Syed Safdar Ali was in government service. Service requirements of his father took Asif Ali to the scenic hill station of Simla from where he obtained his basic education. He proceeded to study at the Engineering College of Muslim University Aligarh. At Muslim University Aligarh, apart from studies, he took an active part in other college matters, representing his class on the committee of Engineering Society, and graduated with distinction in May 1947, the year Pakistan was founded. He joined Pakistan Military Academy the very next year as a cadet of 1st PMA Long Course. Technical Cadets of 1st PMA Course were sent to UK for training after 10 months at PMA, Gentleman Cadet Asif being one of them. This batch remained in UK on course from Sept 1949 to Oct 1952. While being on course in UK, he was commissioned in Corps of Electrical & Mechanical Engineers on Feb 4, 1950. He completed Practical Engineering Course at Loughborough College UK from 1949 to 1951, and Regular Officers Equipment Course at Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Training Centre, Aldershot, UK in 1952. From his UK days he fondly recalls that his colleagues used to introduce him as Prince Aly, son of the Agha Khan, owing to the commonality with his surname; and he used to enjoy the protocol bestowed upon him. On return to Pakistan in 1952, he served at various establishments including 501 Central Workshop, HQ 15 Division, 86 Infantry Workshop Company, 19 Lancers (King George's Own) Light Aid Detachment EME, EME Directorate (GHQ), Base Manufacturing Workshop, Army Apprentices School, Headquarters 1 Armoured Division, 57 Infantry Workshop Company EME. He remained an active sportsman and enjoyed playing tennis and squash. He also won the officers non central rifle match in an overall competition of 15 Division in 1953, and was selected to represent the Division at Pakistan Army Rifle Association. In 1965, he was serving as Company Commander at 96 EME Battalion. When the war broke out, he received a temporary promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on September 1, 1965, and was made commanding officer of 96 EME Battalion. The Battalion served with valor at Chamb Jaurian Sector. Following is an excerpt from a book on history of EME: 96 EME Battalion always came up to the expectations of its commanders and achieved commendable results. It was involved in the Chhamb Jaurian sector with its parent formation 7 Division.

During the 7 Division offensive operation, for the capture of Chamb Jaurian and Akhnor, tanks, guns and other vehicles had to cross River Tawi where area was boggy and bed of the river was soft. Numerous tanks, guns and vehicles were bogged down along the axis of advance. The battalion worked day and night with dedication to recover them and to keep the routes of advance clear. GOC 7 Division, Major General (later General {COAS}) Yahya Khan, sent the following message of appreciation to the Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Asif Ali on 10TH September: "Please convey to all ranks under your command my high appreciation of the courage and determination that they displayed in the recovery of vehicles and equipment under enemy fire and air attacks". While being at the battlefield, Col Asif kept up the morale of his family as well, a hallmark of a true leader. His wife remembers receiving his letters informing her that our forces were very close to Srinagar and that "it would be a matter of time that the Pakistan Army reached Delhi!" In May 1966, he was confirmed in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He went on to command 3 more EME Battalions (96, 51 & 58). From 1968 to 1969 he commanded 602 Combined Workshop EME. He proceeded to serve at Directorate General Munitions Production in Ministry of Defense, and then at Headquarters Peshawar Logistics Area, and finally at Directorate General Munitions Production in Board of Industrial Management Liaison Secretariat until his retirement from the army in 1977. After retirement from the army, he served as Manager Quality Control & Safety at Airport Development Authority from 1977 to 1979 on Peace Hawk-V program. This was a multi-million-dollar defense project in Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia, under the control of Northrop Corporation. U.S. Corps of Engineers carried out the supervision of this project on behalf of Royal Saudi Air Force. Lt Col Asif was in charge of civil, mechanical and electrical inspectors and conducted the quality control and safety

plans successfully owing to his technical expertise and devotion to duty. Col Asif had a great sense of humor. Once his US colleague in Saudi Arabia asked him, "Where have you learnt such good English from?" Col Asif replied, "American movies!" In January 1980, he joined Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) as Chief Engineer Maintenance, responsible for maintenance of different machinery and equipment used in pipeline construction. He also served as Chief Engineer Construction whereby he controlled and executed the PARCO Pipeline Project and Quetta Pipeline Project. Being an active person, he regularly played golf at Railways Golf Club in Lahore during his tenure with SNGPL. Col Asif had a flair for diplomatically resolving toughest of the issues. His deputy at SNGPL, once narrated an interesting conversation whereby he once told Col Asif that there is no dearth of technical expertise within SNGPL however the flow of work gets hindered as a result of politics and internal issues. Col Asif told him to leave the handling of politics to him and only focus on technical matters. This modus operandi worked very well and the operations sailed smoothly as never seen before. In November 1986, he retired from SNGPL on super-annuation. After spending a fulfilling retired life with his family, he left for the heavenly abode in February 1995. His family remembers him as an ever caring, kind, cheerful and supportive person who was always there for them. May his soul rest in peace; Ameen. His character and persona is best described in the words of some of his colleagues & course mates, from condolence letters at his demise: -

**Maj Gen Azhar Ali
Syed:**

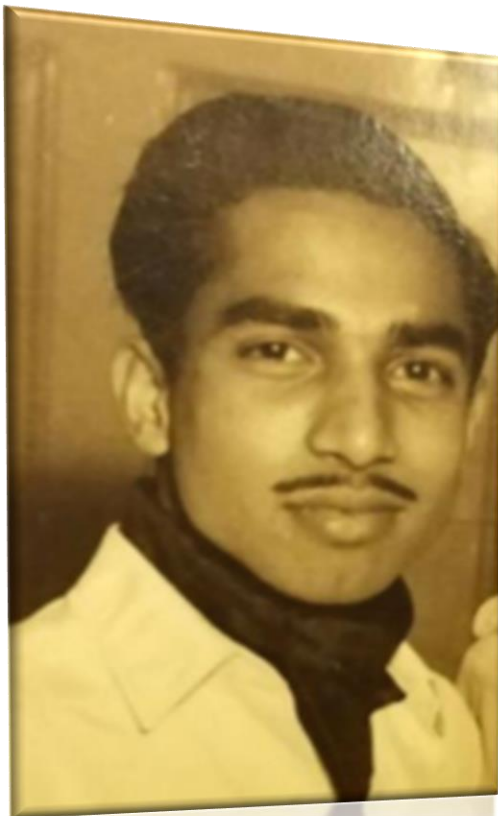
Asif Ali will be remembered by all his friends and colleagues as an extremely polite and a pleasant person.

***Col Muhammad
Saleh:***

He was most cheerful and loving friend. He never despaired under any circumstances.

***Maj. Gen. Shabbir
Hussain Shah:***

We shared the same dormitory in Loughborough College, UK. In Kharian Cantt, which was only half built in 1959, he was my EME Deputy in the headquarters, where he was a pillar of strength to me. I always thought he was destined to end up at a much senior rank than he actually did, but that is destiny. Asif was a man of substance, well mannered, cheerful and ever ready to champion the right cause. Upright and unbending, he seldom compromised on principles.



Images from PAKISTAN MILITARY ACADEMY





Images from ENGINEERING COURSE IN LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE, UK



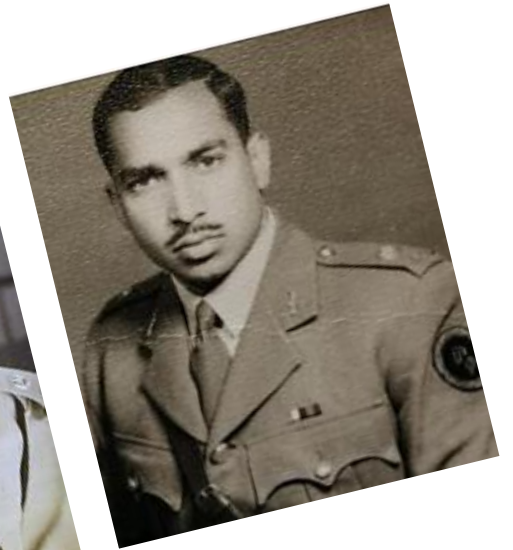
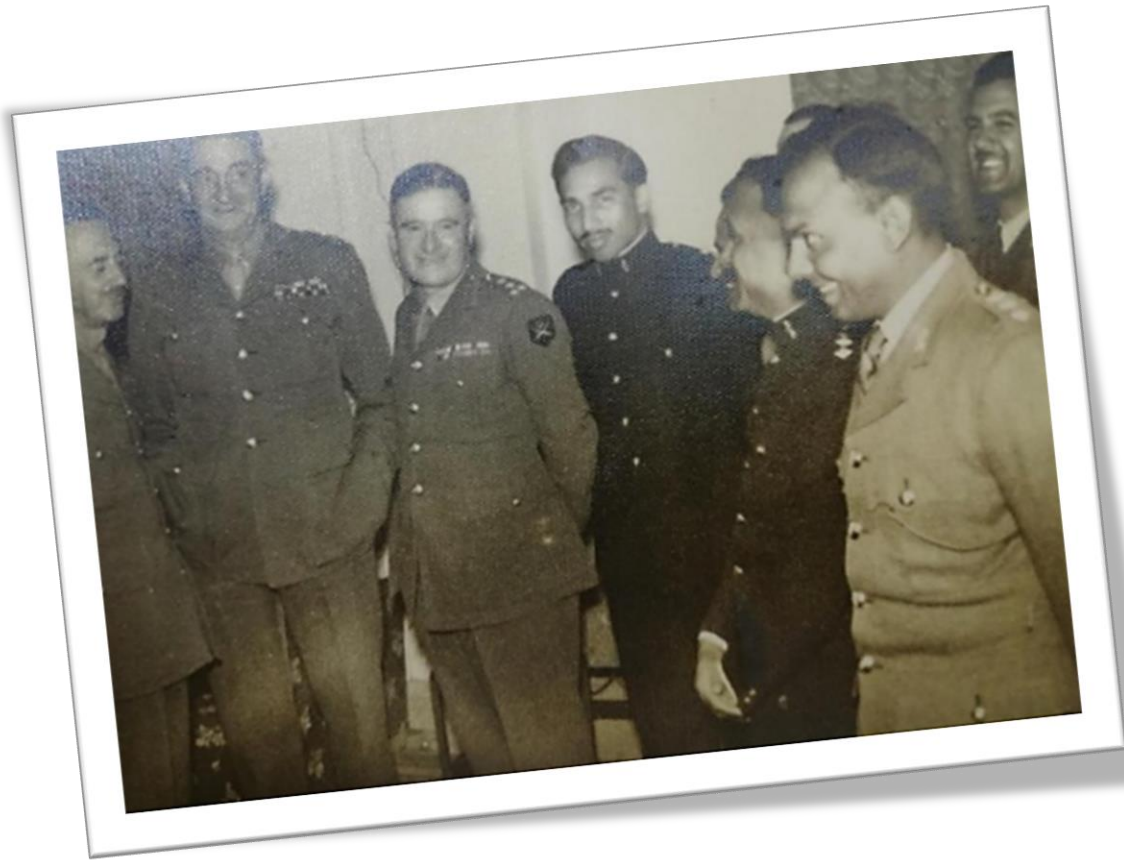


Images from 65 War





MISCELLANEOUS Images from Army Life







POST-ARMY SERVICE images:

- AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
- SUI NORTHER GAS PIPELINES LIMITED





39. PA 2734 (GC-227) Col Mohammad Saleh

Mohammad Saleh S/o Mohammad Ashraf Khan was born on 19.2.1929. He belonged to Sandhian Sunny Bank, Murree, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined Corps of Signals

Muhammad Saleh was born on 19 February, 1929 at village Sandhian in Murree; a summer resort near Rawalpindi. His father, Muhammad Ashraf was a Manager of a local business man and mother was a house wife. He was third child of the couple. Saleh did his matric in 1945 from Murree and then joined Gordon College, Rawalpindi. He completed his intermediate education in April, 1947; the year of independence of Pakistan and decided to be part of the Armed Forces of the independent Pakistan.

Saleh applied for Pakistan Military Academy along with his two friends and college fellows. Riaz, who joined 1st PMA Long Course and died in service as Major General. The other was Khaqan Abbasi, who could not be selected for the Army and later joined Pakistan Air Force and retired as Air Commodore. Post retirement Khaqan Abbasi became a Federal Minister for the Government of Pakistan.

Saleh joined Pakistan Army in 1948 as cadet of 1st Pakistan Military Academy Long Course. During training, he suffered a knee injury but still managed to complete all activities and passed out with his course on 4 February, 1950. He joined the Number 3 Company of General Headquarters Signal Regiment of the Corps of Signals. In June 1950, Number 3 Company of General Headquarters Signal Regiment was re-designated as 1 Corps Signal Company and later on 1 July 1951 as 1 Corps Signal Regiment. 1 Corps Signal Regiment was reorganized into 1 Corps Signal Operational Battalion which was re-designated as 2 Signal Battalion in October 1963.

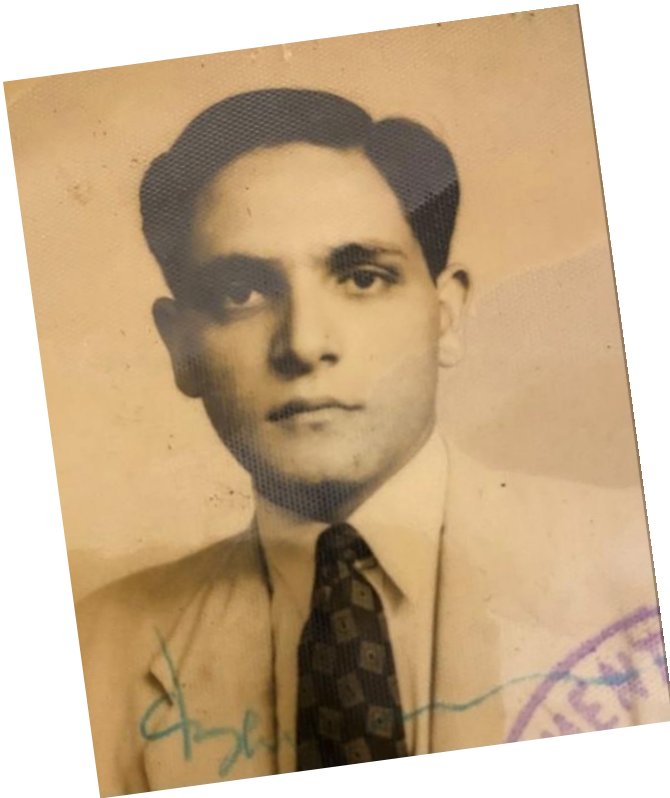
Saleh did Telecommunication Engineering from Carlisle, Wales United Kingdom and a Telecommunication course in China. On return to Pakistan, he was posted to 27 Signal Battalion in Peshawar. Besides Regimental duties in different Signal units, he served in all ranks as instructor at the College of Signals. In February 1965, he was posted back to his parent unit at Kharian from Peshawar. During 1965 war, he was Officer Commanding 1 Company of 2 Signal Battalion. He later commanded 2 Signal Battalion from 1 June 1966 to 22 January 1968. In March 1969, he was appointed as the first Colonel of the Battalion of his parent unit. Post Command, he had a stint of Grade 1 Staff at Lahore. During 1971 war, he was posted in School of Signals Rawalpindi where he became the Chief Instructor in 1975. His last posting was deputation to Pakistan Sports Complex as Deputy Director. On completion of 27 years of service, he retired from the Pakistan Army in May 1977.

Post retirement, Saleh resigned from Pakistan Sports Complex. He then served as Deputy Director (Technical) in the Intelligence Bureau, Islamabad for approximately ten years. He had the honour of establishing the Electronic Intelligence System of Intelligence Bureau. Having served Pakistan in his humble capacity, he now decided to ameliorate his religious education. He therefore decided to learn Arabic for better understanding of The Quran and did his Elementary and Intermediate level courses from Allama Iqbal Open University in 1984. He also did short employments as member of Prime Minister Inspection Commission and a private job in a Telecommunication setup.

Saleh, after spending a religiously oriented fulfilling retired life with his family, left for the heavenly abode on 15 November 2012. May Allah Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace, Ameen.

Saleh married Jamila on 26 June 1963 at Murree. The couple was blessed with three sons. Eldest is Amer Saleh Abbasi, an electrical engineer who pursues his own business of real estate and lives in Islamabad. Lieutenant General (Retired) Azhar Saleh Abbasi is the second son, who earned Saleh the honour by becoming a recipient of the coveted 'Sword of Honour'. He commanded 1 Corps at Mangla and served as Chief of the Logistics Staff at the General Headquarters. Now he lives in Bharia Town, Islamabad. The youngest was Asim Abbasi, who served a short stint in 55 Baloch Regiment and then pursued private business. Asim set out on his eternal journey on 10 December 2021 and left behind two sons. May Allah bless his soul and grant him peace. Ameen.

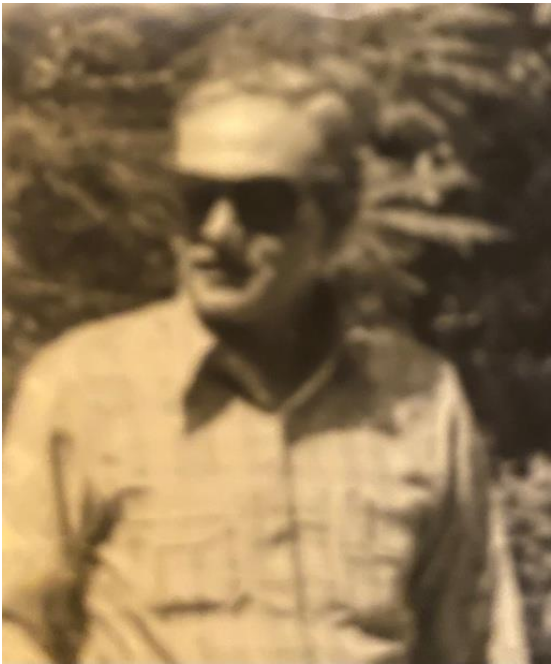
AS HE AGED



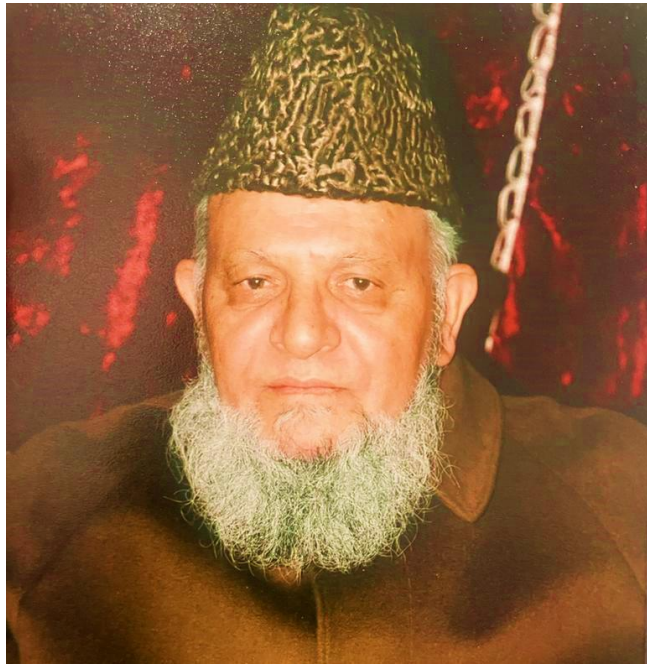
1950



1977



1982



2007



MILITARY LIFE



CHINA

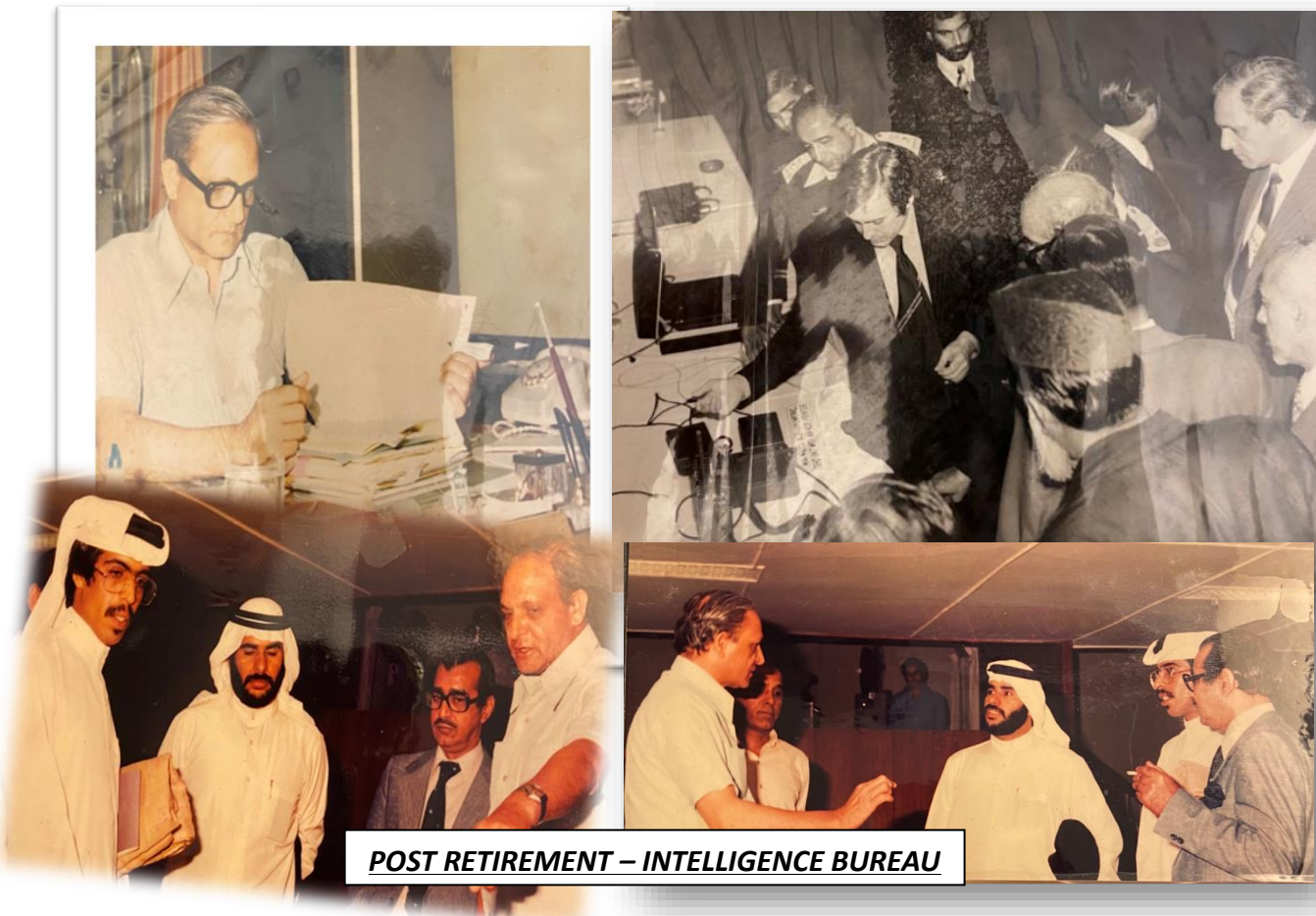


1952



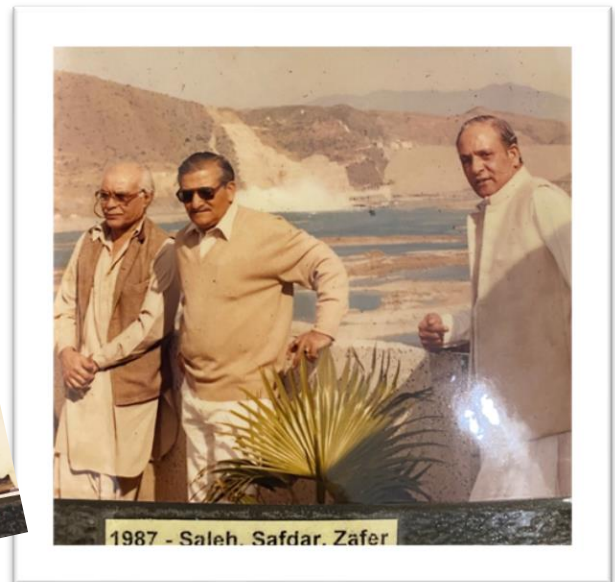


With Foreign Delegations



POST RETIREMENT – INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

COURSE GET TOGETHERS



40. PA 2735 (GC-255) Brig Syed Zair Hussain

Syed Zair Hussain S/O Syed Raza Hussain was born on 30.12.1928. He belonged to Kujhwa Saron, Bihar, India. On migration to Pakistan, He joined the 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.

Brig Syed Zair Hussain was born in India, Patna, on 30th December 1928. He did his early education there and finally earned his BSc from Patna College. He was selected for PMA in 1948. On commissioning he joined EME. Soon after passing out he was sent to England for engineering which he did not complete. On return from England he joined 16 Baloch. In 1961 on graduating from C&SC he was sent to Dacca as GSO 2 ops and then posted to 2EBR for completion of his Regimental Duty. The unit was then located at Jessore. During 1965 War he served at Jewan Nagar and Darsanna borders. On promotion to Lt. Col., he commanded the 2 EBR at Lahore and Dacca. At Dacca, during the 1970 civil disobedience, he was awarded Tamgha-e-Qaid-e-Azam (TQA) for his apt handling of the situation when Dacca Cantt was threatened by miscreants. On completion of his command, he was posted to II Div Lahore as GSO-I (ops). Here he served under Gen Azhar and Gen Bahadur Sher respectively. He was promoted Brigadier in early 1971. Brig Zair Commanded 20 Bde at Jarikas which participated in 1971 War under 23 Div Commanded by Gen Janjua Shaheed (SJ). Two months before the War he met a road accident while going to the border. He suffered broken leg which was treated by putting Plaster of Paris, thus severely curtailing his mobility. Despite that Gen Janjua reposed his full confidence in him and kept him in Comd of the Brigade during the operations. 20 Brigade had the honour of capturing famous Tako Chak, much discussed during the talks after the war. After commanding 20 Brigade, he commanded 212 Indep Inf Bde Okara, 44 Caderized Brigade at Malir, and later, 55 Brigade Hyderabad. He was Commanding the Brigade on 5 Jul 1977 when Martial Law was imposed. Finally, he retired as NG Commander from Karachi in 1978. On retirement he got a job in public sector as Director Sports Sindh where he stayed for prolonged duration. During that period, he developed an existing structure into a decent sports complex at Nazimabad. Brig Zair had the honor of heading the hockey team in 1978 for the Asian Cup in India. Brig Zair was very fond of traveling and availed all opportunities to do so during his stay there. He was a very keen bridge player gave up this hobby after retirement. A very caring person who silently took care of the extended family to the best of his abilities.



Brig Syed Zair Hussain

He was blessed with two sons and a daughter. His eldest Syed Jameel Hussain is an electrical engineer from UET Lahore and later did his Master in Industrial Management from USA. Presently he heads Fuji Films Pakistan. His younger son Syed Shakeel Hussain Retd from Army as Major General and later had a stint as High Commissioner in Sri Lanka. The third child Atia Naqvi is clinical psychologist and settled in USA with her family. Brig Zair passed away in 2012 and his wife is now staying with his two sons.



Some details of the three children of Brig Zair followed by family pics. Eldest son of Brig Zair, Jameel, has two daughters and a son. Nabeel son of Mr. Jameel did his studies from UK and is now working as a senior banker, he is married with two kids. Anum eldest daughter of Mr Jameel is married lives in Lahore and is blessed with a daughter and son. Maha younger daughter is married and lives in Karachi she has a son 2 years old.





41. PA 2736 (GC-167) Brig Ijaz-ud-Din

Ijaz-ud-Din S/O Ghias-ud-Din was born on 26.2.1928. He belonged to Civil Lines, Jullundur. He migrated to Pakistan and joined 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Engineers.



Young Ijaz-ud-din

THE LEGENDARY I.D.

Initial life: Brig. Ijaz up din Khan was born on 26th February, 1928 at Jalandhar, East Punjab. His ancestry can be traced to Abu Ayub Ansari of Madina. In 1600s his ancestors moved from Kanikurram, Waziristan and settled in various bastis around Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur area of East Punjab. They were known as the basti pathans. These clans have produced many gallant and brave leaders. He belonged to a family of lawyers and his father, although not a lawyer himself, wanted his only son to be one and carry on the practice of his grandfather.

After his matriculation, Ijaz was enrolled in Islamia College, Jalandhar, where he had no option but to take art subjects, as such, he could not pursue his passion of becoming a doctor. He did, later on, leave Arts to take up Sciences. Partition and associated circumstances saw him joining the Pakistan Military Academy's First Long Course.

Military period: During his cadet days he was a master mischief maker and loved to play pranks on his friends and fellow cadets who grudgingly enjoyed the pranks and took his jokes on a lighter note. One such anecdote is that *“one of the cadets always boasted upon return from leave, that he went in his Papa’s Buick for shopping or they went for a picnic in his Papa’s Buick. After a few such remarks, Ijaz would chip in that he went shopping in his Daddy’s Dumper or for a picnic in his Daddy’s Dumper”*.

Ijaz was a brilliant student and wanted to join the infantry but his Instructor counseled him to join the Corp of Engineers to make the best use of his mathematical acumen.

After passing out from the Academy, his first posting was with 12 Div. in Azad Kashmir, from there he was sent as adjutant to the Commander Engineers, 12 Div. in Barian. 1958 saw him moving to Risalpur as an instructor in the Military College of Engineering. It was the first of his many postings to Risalpur.

In 1961 he did his attachment with British and American armies on the Rhine, Germany. He had a lot of fond memories and stories of his stay there. He enjoyed his stay and interaction with his British and American counterparts. There was a lot to be learned and then to pass on to the officers back home.

After his return from Germany, in 1962, he once again was stationed in Murree as Commander Engineers 12 Div.

1965 war saw him in Risalpur, where he was commanding the Engineers Training Battalion. During the pre-war tensions all the reserves had been re-called to active duty. One day a big Chevy arrived at his office door and out came a soldier, he saluted and said "reporting for duty sir". He was a retired Mess Hawaldar and was successfully running restaurants in England. 1965 war had brought out the feeling of pride and honor of being a Pakistani, in all sections of the country.

From 1966 to 1969 Col Ijaz was Commander Engineers, East Pakistan. It was a posting that required extensive travel, visiting all the units under his command, not only road and bridges, but waterways were also under his command. He got to visit the famous Sundarban Mangrove forests many a times.

It was in East Pakistan, when under the direct orders of Maj. Gen. Muzaffar ud din he, reluctantly, started playing golf and fell in love with the game. During these daily games one of the Colonel playing with the G.O.C., would, on every stroke of G.O.C., good or bad, would loudly exclaim, "Well played sir" Col. Ijaz would promptly retort "Well said Sir." Everyone in the party immensely enjoyed the repartee.

He was a good golf player and won lots of tournaments. He was also the winner of East Pakistan Golf Championship. This winning trend continued all through his life.

During his tenure in Dhaka it was common knowledge that a few senior Ordinance officers, had made a lot of money in the process of ordering steel re-bars (sariya). At a function at the Ordinance Mess, the Ordinance Colonel kept insisting to the GOC, to try the cake as it was delicious, rich and heavy. Col. Ijaz, in his usual jovial fashion commented "Colonel Sahib, kiya iss maen sariya dalla hua hai". All in attendance broke into spontaneous snickering.

Col Ijaz commanded the Engineers Training Battalion twice in his career, once in 1963 and again, in 1969, after his return from East Pakistan. He was an honest hardworking and dedicated soldier, always looking after the welfare of his junior officers, soldiers and other staff. He was warmly welcomed back on his second attachment as Commander Training Battalion. Corp of Engineers has a reunion after every 5 years. He was proud to have arranged and planned for two of these events.

It is a big celebration with sports competitions, presenting of colors, March past parade for the attending dignitaries, Darbar for the soldiers and formal lunches and dinners for the visiting, serving and retired officers.

In 1970 he was posted to The Frontier Works Organization and deputed to the Northern areas. It was a long and arduous love affair. He returned again and again in various capacities and ranks while the KKH was under construction. He commanded groups 492 and 496. With his sharp memory and keen interest in the topography of the northern areas, he could name most of the peaks and glaciers at a glance. This knowledge came in handy during road construction, landslides and glacier melts.

While working on the KKH, he developed a strong bond of friendship and mutual respect with his Chinese counterparts. He visited China numerous times with various delegations. It was a standard practice of the Chinese to host Banquets for the visiting delegations. These banquets were long and tedious affairs with numerous courses and many toasts. On one such occasion, towards the end of the Banquet, Col. Ijaz got up and said, now I will say Thank you in all the languages that I know and proceeded to say Danke shoun, She Gracia Merci and most importantly in his own language "Phittae Mounh", all attending raised their glasses toasting "Phittae Mounh", with all Pakistanis present, trying to hide their smiles.

He also commanded the construction of the Lowari Tunnel, which unfortunately, had to be postponed due to lack of funding. While his tenure as Commander Lowari Tunnel, Russians had invaded Afghanistan and Brig Ijaz was given the defense of the Northern areas. Everyone was surprised and kept saying, but how come, as you are an engineer and Brig. Ijaz would smile and say I am a soldier first and an engineer afterwards.

He loved and respected his uniform and was very proud of being a soldier of the Pakistan Army. He not only for himself, but for everyone in the Army, expected the highest standards to be maintained as the Army required. Once while posted in E- in -C branch at the GHQ, a young junior officer came to see him at his residence, with a request for a posting somewhere, on compassionate grounds. Brig. Ijaz approved his request, but he was shocked when he saw the officer put some money in an envelope and put it on the table. He suddenly saw and heard Brig Ijaz's famous roar of anger strongly condemning this act of the Officer. Apparently, Brig Ijaz's predecessor had a fixed rate going for various postings and this young officer didn't know about the transfer of that officer.

This incident deeply disturbed Brig Ijaz as to the moral values that were creeping into the army and was very reluctant to be associated with the MES due to its bad reputation.

In 1981 he retired from the Army and started the 2nd part of his career as a civilian.

After Retirement

He joined WAPDA for the construction of power plant in Gilgit. After the completion of that project he joined Overseas Construction Pakistan, under the stewardship of Gen Saadat Ali Khan. He completed the construction of fiberglass igloo accommodation to be put up in Siachin glacier in record time. He went to work in Iraq and Yemen under OCP in collaboration with Kuwait Korean construction for different developmental projects. It was a busy time for him looking after the projects and also hiring labour from Pakistan. At one stage, an Egyptian Engineer accused Brig Ijaz that he was using his brother's firm to hire manpower and -was making money on the side. Brig. Ijaz replied that to my knowledge, I am the only son of my father, if my father had any more sons then I am totally unaware of them.

He was a life Member of the American Society of Engineers and was a consultant to the Asian Development Bank. He also was the President of Pak China Friendship Association. With his background of KKH construction

and his interaction with the Chinese, he guided the Association to become a strong and active body, looking after the social and commercial interests of both the countries. He was a good and well-rounded sportsman. He played Cricket Tennis Squash and Golf. He represented Army in all of these sports and won acclaim in all.

He was also a good bridge player and with his sharp mathematical mind was always on the winning side. He had a never-ending penchant for travel. He and his wife did their first road trip in 1961, travelling by car from England to Pakistan. They both loved travelling around the world, experiencing various countries, their cultures and cuisine.

After his retirement, his day would start at 6:00 am with a game of golf with his buddies. He used to say, the morning round of golf lifted his soul and brightened his whole day.

He used to love reading books and enjoyed socializing with friends and family, his house was always welcoming, full of fun and laughter.

He was a truly obedient and caring son, looking after the welfare of his parents.

He got married in 1955 and had a long and happy married life. He sired four daughters. He was a loving and nurturing father and grandfather. He took great pride in the achievements of his daughters and grandchildren. He was a friend for every age group, everyone coming to him for advice was always welcomed and given honest and sincere guidance. He was a very humble person and very content with what God had bestowed on him. He never had a bad word for anyone, even the ones who had harmed him one way or another. He had a never-ending supply of candies in his pocket, which were freely distributed to his golf buddy's, friends and children. Children used to look forward to getting a candy from him and fondly used to call him 'our candy man'.

His wit and humor were legendary, which at time put him in difficult situations and at times got him out of difficult spots. A point in case being: during his stay in Baghdad, at one of the receptions the Indian Military Attaché approached him and inquired "Brig. Ijaz, where were you in the 1971 war " and with a straight face Brig. Ijaz replied "Hiding under my bed".

After living a long, healthy, and well-rounded life, in April 2017, he was taken from us by HAPPY TITUS, (his take on Hepatitis). May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat.



Cadet Ijaz-ud-din





With General Tikka Khan on the KK Highway



On Parade at PMA



Young Officer with his wife



Young Officer in Murree



At Khunjerab Top



With Chinese Counter Parts during



With his Chinese counterparts during KKH Construction



Ever Smiling Ijaz Ud Din



At the Overseas Construction Office



At Khunjrab Pass with Brig Aftab



42. PA 2737 (GC-181) Maj Nazir-ul-Haq Sheikh

Nazir-ul-Haq Sheikh S/O Abdul Majid was born on 24.4.1926. He was Resident of Qutab Din Street, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.



43. PA 2738 (GC-240) Lt Col Syed Mohammad Raza

Syed Mohammad Raza S/O Syed Zakir Hussain was born on 2.7.1929. He was Resident of Afatabad, Lyallpur. On Commissioning he joined 8th Punjab Regiment.



44. PA 2739 (185) Lt Col Mohammed Hassan Khan Durrani

Mohammad Hassan Khan Durrani son of Maj Mohammed Ayub Khan Durrani M.B.E first Muslim Officer of Sam Brown Cavalry (now 12 Cav), belonging to Dheri Zardad, Charsada and resided at 50 the Mall Road Peshawar Cantonment.

Lt Col Mohammed Hassan Khan Durrani was born on 12 December 1928 in Peshawar. He got his early education at Saint Joseph College Baramulla, Kashmir, and obtained his Senior Cambridge from Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun. To get a good and reputed education, he stayed away for most of his educational life. After graduating from RIMC he had to come back

to Peshawar to take care of his ailing father who had a stroke and was paralysed, it was a difficult time of his life, as he was burdened with all family responsibilities. Deprived of father's guidance in selecting his carrier, friend advised him to start his carrier in banking sector, but on his mother's advice he was asked to join the army just like his father as it was the only honourable service she knew. Following his mother's advice he joined Pakistan Military Academy 1st long course on 6th December 1948.

Many of his friends from college days had also joined PMA, which made the initial settling period easy for him. After passing out from the academy, he was assigned to 8 Medium Artillery Regiment at Peshawar. He served in different staff appointments and different Artillery units Field, Medium, heavy, Artillery including Heavy Anti-Aircraft and Light Anti-Aircraft regiments. He fought in the 1965 and 1971 wars; he was based in Lahore. He had the honor of raising and commanding two units, 59 Field (1970), and 96 Light AA Regiments (1972). He also had the honour to be Adjutant to visiting President Sukarno of Indonesia to Pakistan. His last assignment with the Pakistan Army was GSO 1 Log Area Peshawar, and he retired on May 4th, 1978. After retirement, he was offered an appointment as Chairman Governors Inspection Team NWFP (Now KPK) but was not comfortable with the job. He left it after a few months and went to manage his ancestral lands. He was great disciplinarian never liked diplomacy or bureaucracy, liked being upfront and bold, never hesitated saying the facts or reality of the situation, however uncomfortable or unacceptable it may have been. He was always full of energy and acted immediately, never let difficulty or obstacles slow him down.

As a father, Lt Col Mohammed Hassan Khan Durrani was a source of inspiration for us. He was a knowledgeable man with love for history. A man of discipline and integrity. Emphasised on moral value, customs and tradition. He was very compassionate father but a strict disciplinarian as well.

He passed away at the age of 75 in 2003 and was buried in his ancestral graveyard in Chughalpura, Peshawar, situated on GT Road.

Two sons of Lt Col Mohammad Hassan Khan Durrani, Major Saddique Hassan Durrani and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Aslam Durrani joined their Grand father's Unit 7 FF Regiment. Make a unique hounor of 3 Generation serving this great Army.



RIMC Sports team Back row from left 3rd Lt. Gen. Fazl-i-Haq and 5th Lt. Col M. Hassan Durrani, 1st row standing 1st left Lt. Gen Jamal Said and last in the row Maj. Gen. Fazl-I-Raziq. sitting on the ground 3rd from left Ft. Lt M. Hayat Durrani(younger brother)(Shaheed)



RIMC Sitting 1st Lt. Gen. Kamal Said, 2nd row 1st Lt. Col. MH Durrani 7th Lt Gen Jamal Said and last Lt. Gen Fazl-I Haq, 3rd Row 1st Lt. Gen Ahmad Kamal.



1st PMA Kakul

Fatima Jinnah Visit to Kakul



Last row on the left on the aisle side Gentleman Cadet Aziz Bhatti sitting in front of Fatima Jinnah, On the right side 2nd last row on the aisle side Gentleman Cadet M Hassan Durrani



M.Hassan Khan Durrani 2nd from right with fellow officers. In the Exercise Area



Having Fun during Exercise



Early Days in Army wearing war dress



Army formal dinner in white tie dress 2nd last Right Lt. Col MH Durrani



Formal black tie Dinner 2nd from Left Lt Col MH. Durrani



Durrani in Different Ranks



Fancy Dress Party at Staff College MH Durrani 4th from left



1st PMA get together at PMA



Fancy Dress party at Staff College, Quetta



*Lt Col Hassan Durrani
at Staff College Dinner Night 2nd from left*



*Lt Col Muhammad Hassan
Durrani at KKH, Northern Areas*



45. PA 2740 (GC-191) Lt Col Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar

Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar S/O Sheikh Abdul Hamid was born on 1.4.1928. He belonged to 1/771 Murree Road, Rawalpindi. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery. His first posting was to 8 Medium Regiment located at Peshawar.

He was born on 1st April, 1928, at Jhelum where his father was serving with the Military Accounts Department. The family originally hailed from Bhera, a small town in Sargodha district. His grandfather who was associated with the fields of education and law shifted to Rawalpindi at the turn of the century which became their permanent abode. He saw his share of travel across India

from Landi Kotal to Poona and Jullundur, as his father moved during his career. He completed his Matriculation from Islamia School Rawalpindi and then enrolled in Gordon College, where he did his FSc. He was studying for his Bachelor's Degree when he joined the Army. During his student days he participated in the Pakistan movement (in a small way, in his own words) and was an office bearer of Muslim Students' Federation wherein they organized various protests and meetings running up to the creation of Pakistan, the highlight being Quaid's visit to Rawalpindi

He joined the 1st PMA Course at Kakul on 18th January 1948 and was assigned to Khalid Company. The course passed out on 4th February 1950, and he joined 8 Medium Regiment Royal Pakistan Artillery (RPA) at Peshawar. It was during his stint at this unit that he got married in April 1955. He stayed at this unit till late 1955. From Peshawar, he was transferred to the Pakistan High Commission at London as GSO -3, where he stayed until 1959. His first child, a daughter, was born in London. He was transferred to Nowshera upon his return from London and promoted to the rank of Major. He took up his assignment as the battery commander Jammu & Kashmir battery with 3SP Regiment Artillery which was a part of the 100 Armoured Brigade. His two sons were born in Nowshera in 1959 & 1960. He stayed in Nowshera till 1961, from where he was posted to Lahore as OC MP Unit where his tenure continued for 2 years thereafter he was transferred to D. I. Khan as Chief Instructor MP School. After spending 2 years as chief instructor he was transferred to Rawalpindi as OC GHQ MP Unit. This stint was short lived as the 1965 war broke out and he was transferred to 32 Medium Regt. As 2IC. He saw action with this unit at the Suleimanki / Fazilka sectors and later moved the unit to Lahore. He was promoted Lt. Col. after the war and was transferred to 28 Medium Regt. as CO. The regiment was located at Mansar Camp (near Attock). The unit moved to Jhelum within a few months. In 1969 he was transferred to ISSB Kohat as Deputy President where he stayed till October 1971. It was during his stay at Kohat where he suffered a massive heart attack after which his medical category was downgraded resulting in limited opportunities with the army. His last posting was at GHQ as GSO-1 at the Staff Duties (SD) Directorate at the GHQ Rawalpindi, from where he retired in Feb 1975 after completing 25 years of service

After retirement he joined the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) as Director Administration for a year, following which he joined a prominent business house for a couple of years. His last assignment was with the PIDC where he was the Resident Representative at Rawalpindi. He lived a retired life after that in Rawalpindi.

He breathed his last on September 3, 2016.

He loved his military life and would often reminisce about the early days of his career, considering his Peshawar and London stints the best periods of his professional life. He particularly remembered the group

of friends like Zafar, Mahmood and Babar and their frequent trips together during the early post commissioning days

He led a very principled life and had few but solid friendships. He was a loving and caring husband and a father who would always be there for his family and friends.



***GC Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar
with the Colour Party***



***Second Lieutenant Sheikh Mohammad
Akhtar, 8 Medium Regiment***



Raja Aziz Bhatti and Akhtar



GC Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar PMA, Kakul



Akhtar, Zafar and Mahmud



46. PA 2741 (GC-189) Syed Sajjad Haider

Syed Sajjad Haider S/O Syed Salfiqir Ali Shah was born on 13.12.1928. He belonged to Nishat Street, Kohat. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.



47. PA 2743 (GC-222) Lt Col Mohammad Hussain Tiwana

Mohammad Hussain Tiwana S/O Ghulam Hussain Tiwana was born on 6.1.1929. He belonged to Chak No 102 GB Chak 100, Lyallpur. On Commissioning he joined 19 Lancers.

Lt Col Muhammad Hussain Khan Tiwana, Commonly known as MH or Mummy, was born in Lyallpur (now called Faisalabad), on 6 Jan 1929. His father, Capt Malik Ghulam Hussain Tiwana, VCO 1919 (Kings Commission 1929) was from 19th Lancers and grandfather, Malik Ahmed Khan Tiwana, 18 Tiwana Lancers (later 19th Lancers)

MH Tiwana had his early education from Lyallpur and Shahpur, district Sargodha. He joined 1st PMA Long Course (GC No 222) and was commissioned on 4 Feb 1950, in 19th Lancers. He was transferred to 24th Cavalry (FF) on raising (7 Jun 1962 at Lahore). Served in 12th Cavalry (FF) in 1965 War. Commanded 20th Lancers from 1966 to 68. Served in Armoured Corps Centre & School as Chief Instructor (1968 - 70). Posted as Chief Instructor Rangers in 1970 and appointed Commandant Indus Rangers, in 1971.

He was a three-goal handicap polo player and also fond of greyhounds and races. A keen bridge player and was a well-dressed officer. After retirement he did farming for a long time. He was paralyzed in 1990 and passed away on 13 Nov 2000. May God bless his soul!

MH Tiwana married Munazza Bano (6 Aug 1924 - 13 Feb 2000), daughter of Raja Rahim Ullah Khan on 10 Mar 1956, she was related to Col Raja Abdullah Khan (Jarral). MH Tiwana was related to Brig Malik Gulsher Khan Noon and Brig Malik Muhammad Munir Khan Tiwana from the paternal side. All three - Abdullah, Gulsher and Munir were from, "Temporary School for Indian Cadets (TSIC) "Indore, India, commissioned on 17 Jul 1920. In Part 2, information about them will be given. Details about Col Muhammad Ali Noon, who was their course mate have been covered in his bibliographic sketch. MH Tiwana's children are Maj Malik Ehtasham Hussain Tiwana (Retd), 19th Lancers, Sullaro Tiwana, Sheryar Tiwana and daughter Tahira Tiwana.

FOUR GENERATIONS

Top left . Malik
Ahmed Khan
Tiwana . Top
right . Capt
Malik Ghulam
Hussain Tiwana.
Bottom left . Lt
Col Malik
Muhammad
Hussain Tiwana.
Bottom right .
Maj Malik
Ehtasham
Hussain Tiwana.
Zm



خاں بہادر ملک احمد خان تیوانہ
OBE



حکیم مسیحی خان تیوانہ



All 4 19th
Lancers



Tiwana With his Wife Munazza Begum



Tiwana With His Family

Tiwana in Different Dresses

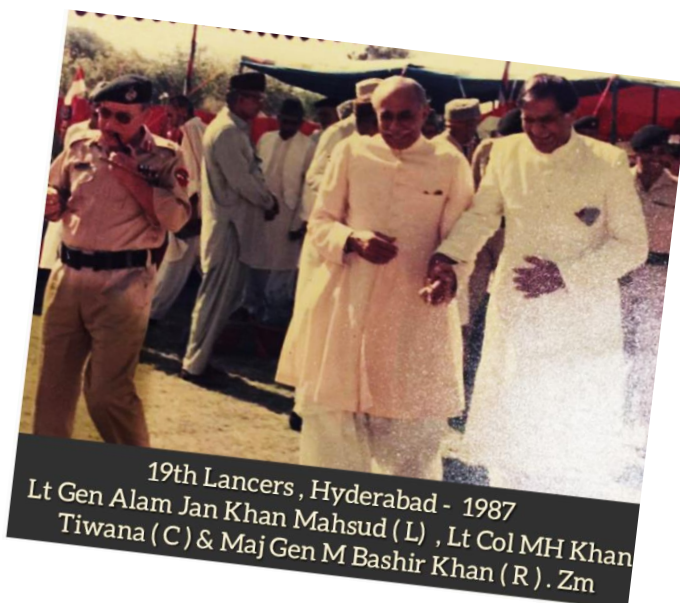
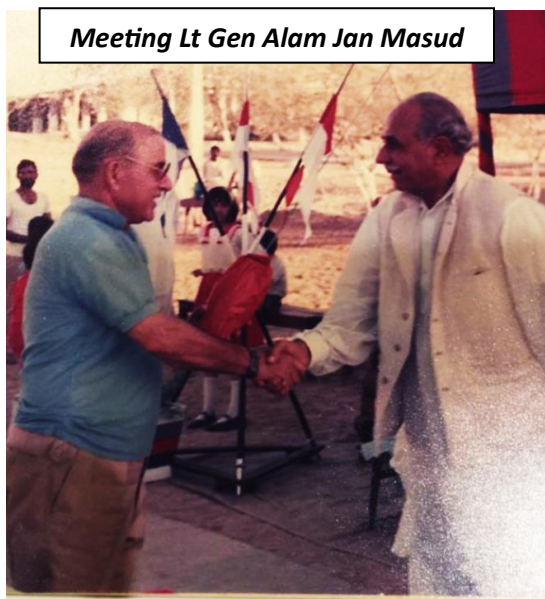


**Group Photograph taken on the eve of departure of
BRIGADIER RIAZ-UL-KARIM KHAN MC.
COMMANDER 3 ARMD BDE
(On 23 Mar, 61.**



Chairs L. to Right:- Maj Fazl-I-Haq, Lt-Col Irshad Bashid, Mc, Brigadier Riaz-ul-Karim Khan Mc, Lt-Col Nasrullah Khan, Maj Amir Gulistan Janjua,
Standing L. to Right:- Maj Raja Sabir Hussain, Maj Nisar Ali Khan, Maj M. Ibrahim, Maj Mohd Hussain, Tiwana, National Studio, Gujrat.

Meeting Lt Gen Alam Jan Masud



19th Lancers, Hyderabad - 1987
Lt Gen Alam Jan Khan Mahsud (L) , Lt Col MH Khan
Tiwana (C) & Maj Gen M Bashir Khan (R) . Zm



1st PMA gyt, most probably at Karachi, with families





48. PA 2744 (GC-177) Lt Col M. Saeed Malik

M. Saeed Malik, son of Malik Miraj-ud-Din, was born on 28.10.1928. He belonged to House No. 2690-F, Said Mubarik, Chunna Mandi, Lahore. He was captain of PMA Hiking Club and member of Radio/Electronics Club. On Commissioning, he joined Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Corps. (E.M.E.)



Saeed Malik invoking the Blessings of Allah (SWT) for the Course Shuhuda Colleagues at the inauguration of Golden Jubilee Monument, PMA, Kakul on 4th February 2000.

1st PMA ACCOUNT LT COL M. SAEED MALIK

It was February 1947; political activism towards the withdrawal of British rule from India was at its peak. While reading the newspaper one morning, my uncle, who used to live with us as an elder of the house, asked me what I was doing those days. I was an orphan as my father had passed away a couple of years ago. I replied that I was pursuing B.Sc. degree at Islamia College Lahore. He asked what I would do thereafter. My answer was to seek a job after my graduation. My uncle, a witty man as he was, said, "What if you get a job right away!!" and handed me the newspaper having the advertisement for commission into the British Indian Army. Initially, not having a clue to what it was, I followed the instructions therein. Filled the recruitment form, and submitted it. After a few weeks, I was called to SSB and was selected.

Then the fateful event happened the same year and Pakistan came into being on the eve of 14th of August. It was December of 1947 when I received a surprise letter from GHQ ordering me to report to Transit Camp Rawalpindi. From here onwards, my phenomenal journey to PMA started.

At the end of my life's first ride on a 3-tonner truck from Havelian Railway Station to PMA, I saw some ex-IMA cadets standing on the road to welcome us. In my mind, I appreciated them and was pleased to see them expecting niceties, brotherly politeness, etc.



*At my home at Chunna
Mandi, Lahore, 1945*

It was the end of January, and the weather was chilly, particularly at Kakul. I was a Lahori college dandy, and was putting on a Herring-Bone Chester Jacket over my best combination suit with one piece Jodhpur suede ankle shoes. Picture of me at my home in the same attire at the age of 17.

As we jumped out of the truck, the IMA/PMA cadets asked us to lift our luggage, dump it at the allotted rooms and return 'on the double'. This first encounter was not at all relishing but there was no escape. We complied. On return, they made us fall in 3s on the main PMA Road and took us for a run. Brought us back, on the double, and led us to the back of Khalid Coy. Mess. What followed that evening is another story.

I remember when I got to my room, I was absolutely stunned at all this. My dress was spoiled, the fancy shoes were cracked, and my idea of a nice military academy life was totally dashed. I wondered if this was the job my uncle was talking about. For the next three months, it was Company Commander Tikka Khan and us--day and night. In between the training periods any senior would call us out and take us for 2/3 miles road run. Even Sundays were no exception.

In one of my letters to my elder brother back home, during my initial months, I confessed having broken down and intimated them of giving up on my PMA dream and may be showing up home any time. Days however passed and as I was finding my feet on the ground, another item got added to my training-- 'Restrictions'.

During such 'restrictions,' I hit upon a very sympathetic comrade A.A. Jillani. A thin, frail-looking young fellow. Intelligent, scholarly, and full of humor but a great demoralizer. He would say, "Saeed, is it not too much for us!! How can we pull on with all this!! You must join CPO (Can't Pull On) club." Occasionally, he visited fellow cadets in their rooms and propagated his CPO philosophy. I somehow managed to endure the PMA training and on 4th February, 1950 a batch of 62 cadets got their commission in Pak Army. On passing out from PMA,

I
opted
for
EME
corps
and
got my
first posting



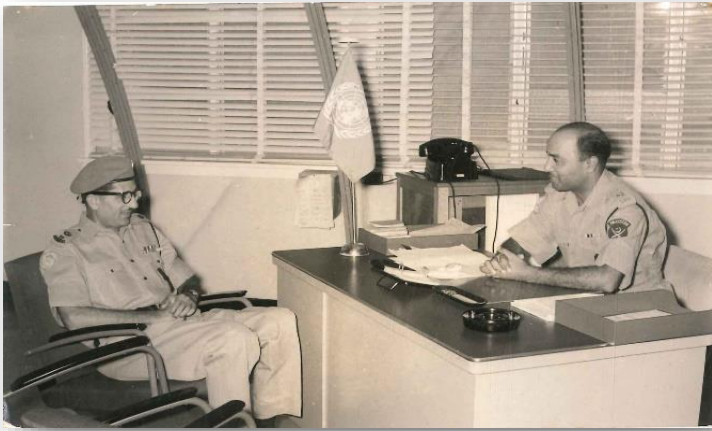
As 2nd Lieutenant Officer 1950

at

501 workshop in Rawalpindi. I used to enjoy my afternoons sitting in the lawns of now Armour, and then EME mess at the mall, and watch officers coming out of GHQ on thier bicycles as no cars were seen plying on the road. Back in 1950's there were hardly any cars in Rawalpindi and one could spot just one or two and that too of officers and families known to us. After dinner, a group of officers used to walk on the Mall, up to the Pindi Club and back. It was a lovely carefree time as young freshly commissioned officers.



*Outside my Barrack in
PMA 1949*



*At West-IRIAN, Indonesia on a
UN Mission 1959*



*Asif Ali's Car Hillman Minx
during tour of France, Spain,
Gibraltar, Tangier, 1951*

Immediately after PMA, I was selected for an Engineering degree and technical training course at Lough Borough College in the UK. The course was to start in September 1950 so we were posted for a few months at 502 workshop Rawalpindi. I had, indeed, one of the best times of my life at UK and had great memories with my fellow 1st PMA course mates like M.A. Rizwani, Azher Ali Syed, Asif Ali, and Kazim Akbar. During my time at UK, I had made many sightseeing trips to Germany, Belgium, France and Spain. Some of my course mates were also with me on these memorable trips.

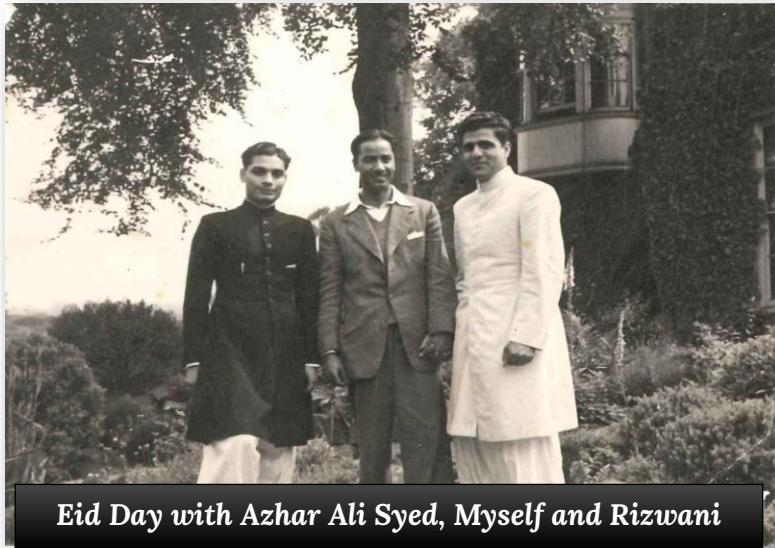


*At Youth Camp LORALIE
Germany, 1951*

I also had the opportunity of being posted at PMA, Kakul as EME Instructor. In 1965, I was promoted Lt. Col. and was posted to East Pakistan as CEME 14 DIV. This posting proved an acid test for my integrity, character, and loyalty to my country. One morning, the GOC called me to his office and handed me a file to examine and report.

It was regarding E-n-C's permission to auction 'junk' lying in the MES yard. I went to examine the junk. To my

surprise, the so-called junk was actually 20 Perkins Diesel Engines complete with clutch & gearbox preserved in heavy layer of wax. While on examination, some Bengali officers approached me and asked me to confirm the auction. They openly came out with their plan to fix the engines on boats to run as buses on 'Buri Ganga' and other rivers. They offered me a handsome bribe for this. When they realized I was not submitting to their wish, they pressurized me through the Medical Specialist. An indication was given to me that they will end my career through down grading my medical category. I stuck to the truth and recommended for their rightful use. As a result, I was declared Medical Category

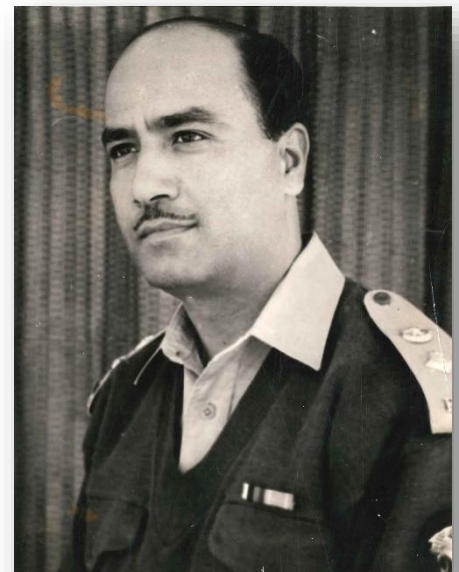


Eid Day with Azhar Ali Syed, Myself and Rizwani

Quorn Hute, Loughborough, U.K, 1951

'B' and that sealed my military career. In 1969, I was posted back to Lahore, West Pakistan. During the 1971 war with India, I was posted in Pindi on a deputation at the Ministry of Defense. Later, while I was posted in Quetta in 1974, I resigned from service of Pak Army as my medical category was downgraded to category B.

In 1977, I was employed at OGDC as the head of the Engineering Division. I served in OGDC till my super annuation age and retired as General Manager Projects in 1988. Allah has blessed me with six children, including two sons and four daughters. All my children are married and living in their own homes. I with my wife of 59 years Sohail Tayyaba is enjoying a retired life at Askari 1, Chaklala Scheme III, Rawalpindi and fondly remember and relish the memories of my comrades and friends of 1st PMA Long Course. All have passed away. Only two of my course mates Zafar Khan and Mian Mahmud are living and I enjoy the 4th Feb reunion of our course as we celebrate it with same zeal and fervor, along with our 2nd generation and families of my deceased course mates.



*As Lieutenant Colonel
of PEME, 1973*



Praying for the departed comrades in a 4th Feb Reunion at Rawalpindi Club



49. PA 2745 (GC-165) Syed Abid Hussain

Syed Abid Hussain S/O Pir Ghulam Hassan Ali Shah was born on 4.10.1929. He belonged to Kohat City. Upon commissioning, he joined the Pathan Regiment.



50. PA 2746 (GC- 248) Col Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar

Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar S/O Abdul Ghafoor was born on 20.7.1926. He joined 1st PMA Long Course on 18th January, 1948 and was commissioned on 4th February 1950. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.



Col C. M. Anwar (PA 2746):

[26 July 1926–17 November 2004]

Brief Life History

Col Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar (CM or Chaudhry as he was fondly remembered by his friends) was born in Ludhiana on 26 July 1926. His father, Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor, was a renowned educationist who had the distinction of teaching at various leading educational institutions of India and Pakistan, including the famous Government College Ludhiana. Col Anwar completed his Intermediate level education from the Government College Ludhiana. During his college days, he was a keen debater and was also a member of the College hockey team. After completing his Intermediate studies, he joined the Muslim University, Aligarh to pursue his Engineering studies.



*The Lovely Couple
in Loughborough*

Upon creation of Pakistan, he and his family migrated to Pakistan and settled in Multan, where his late father was posted as the Vice Principal of the famous Emerson College (now Government College). He got married on 19 September 1947. Thereafter, he opted to join the Pakistan Army instead of continuing his Engineering studies in Pakistan, and he was privileged to join the 'First PMA Long Course' at the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, in January 1948.

Before his final term at the PMA, he volunteered to join the Army's Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME), and in September 1949 he joined the then Loughborough College of Technology, UK (now Loughborough University) to complete a four-year Diploma Course in Automobile Engineering. Loughborough University later posthumously awarded him an honorary Bachelor of Science degree. Upon completion of his studies at the Loughborough College in July 1953, he joined the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineering (REME) Training Center at Arborfield, UK in September 1953 for a six-month Officer's Equipment Course. Upon completion of the course in March 1954, he returned to Pakistan to begin his illustrious military career.



Style— A Class Apart

After a few staff appointments and completion of some basic officer courses, he got an opportunity to visit the USA from March 1957 to August 1957 to complete a four-month Armament Maintenance Course at the US Army Ordnance School Maryland, followed by a four-week observational training at the US Army's Anniston Ordnance Depot in Alabama. Upon return to Pakistan, he served with various field formations and the EME School, and joined the coveted Staff College in January 1961. After successful completion of his Staff Course, he handled various command and staff assignments until his promotion as a Lieutenant Colonel in April 1966. Thereafter, and until September 1972, he served as a Chief Instructor (Mechanical) at the EME School; commanded an EME Battalion; was the Chief Inspector of the Inspectorate of Vehicles and Engineering Equipment; and staff appointments at the Munitions Production Division of the Ministry of Defense and at the GHQ.

In September 1972 Col CM Anwar was posted to the Pakistan Army Mission in Jordan for three years. During that period, he played a key role in organization and setting up of the REME School of the Royal Jordanian Army. He also provided a lead advisory role to the REME team which was assigned to rationalize the vehicle fleet of the Royal Jordanian Army.

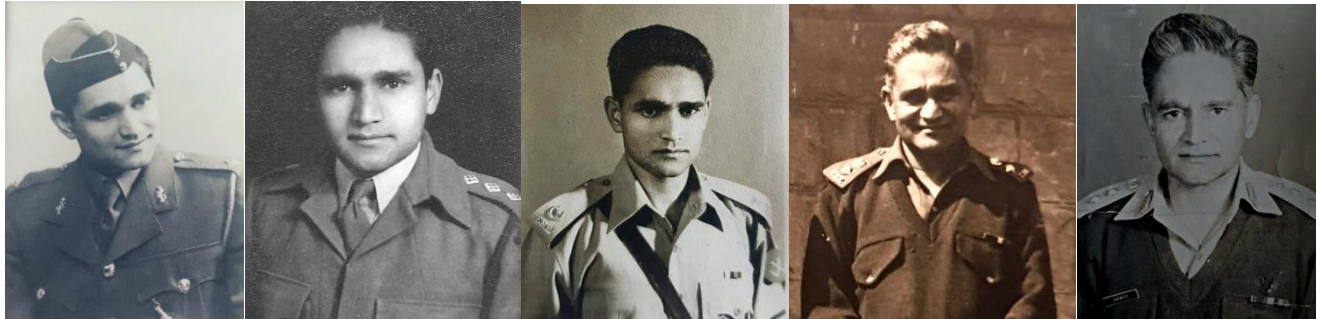


Amman



*At a Camping Site in Germany-
Driving from London to Amman*

Upon return from Jordan in September 1975, he was promoted as a Colonel and was posted in the GHQ. Later in June 1976, upon the request from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Army Chief, he was sent on deputation to the Government of Balochistan as Principal of the Government Polytechnic Institute of Quetta. The Institute had remained closed due to strikes and political interference for a few years, and it goes to the credit of Col CM Anwar that he reopened the Institute within a few months and handed it back to the Government of Baluchistan's Education Department after it was fully operational in April 1977. Upon his return from Quetta in April 1977, he opted to retire from the Army—his last day of service with the Pakistan Army was 15 May 1977.

*2nd Lt**Captain**Maior**Lt Colonel**Colonel*

From 1977 to 1986, he worked in various senior management positions at the Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi and at the Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO) in Lahore. Upon attaining the superannuation age in 1986, and until 1991, he worked as a consultant first, on a USAID Energy Project in Lahore, and later on an ILO Technical Education Strengthening Project in Islamabad.

From 1991 until February 1997, when he unfortunately suffered a stroke attack, he enjoyed a very active life as a retiree. He re-grouped his old friends from Government College Ludhiana and Aligarh University and institutionalized arrangements for holding of their regular get together. He also was a regular participant of the annual get together of the First PMA Long Course, and he did not miss out a single get together even after his illness. He even participated in the February 2004 get together, i.e., just a few months before he left this world for his heavenly abode.



Family: Daddy and Ami with children, son/daughters-in-law and grandchildren

Impressions of his Family Members

Rakhshanda (Shanda), Daughter: I remember him with an aching heart. He was a very humble man, had a loving heart and was a selfless man. He was very kind to his domestic helpers and was really loved by them. He was jovial and social, and was very fond of his friends. He loved being with them.

I am the eldest amongst the four of us. He never shouted at us and would never refuse me for what I would ask for. I would always ask him when I had to go to a friend's house (instead of asking Ammi, as she would often refuse). He, with a willing heart and a smile on his face would drive me to my friends.

We had always seen him very active up and about. He was a Cancerian and had a motherly love for his children. I still remember every night he would tuck us into our beds. As a kid I remember I used to wait for him to come and tuck my quilt—which he would fondly call an “igloo.”

His friends were very regular in visiting and spending time with him. I still remember the time when my brother called me from Pindi to inform me he wasn't well and was hospitalized. Upon reaching Islamabad the same evening, I went up to him and embraced him. Though with a smile, he expressed his concern and conveyed to me clearly that he did not want me there at the cost of leaving my kids behind. This is a father's love. Daddy you will always be missed. May we and our future generations carry on with your legacy and spread the message of love and care for others, *InshaAllah*. May Allah raise your ranks to Jannah. Ameen.



*Daddy, Ami, Rakhshanda, Ehtisham,
Tariq and Tehmina—1966*

Ehtisham, Son: Mentor, disciplinarian and principled, my father was the true depiction of these words. His wisdom and knowledge have guided me in many ways, without which I would not be what I am today. He was always very supportive and encouraging and pushed us to strive for the very best. His occasional pat on the back gave me the courage and motivation to face any challenge head on. He was always very loving, even though sometimes I would misbehave, but Daddy would always look the other way and find humor in my mischief. He was a highflyer and taught me to be an independent thinker and forge my own path, as opposed to following the crowd.

Daddy was someone who always led by example, his life from the eyes of his children, grandchildren, friends and family is a testament to that. He was polite, gentlemanly, humble and extremely helping, and because of

these qualities he was always respected and loved by all. I am forever grateful to him and my mother for the lessons learnt and taught and the countless beautiful memories. Not a day goes by when I don't miss them.

Tariq, Son: Daddy will always be remembered by his children, grandchildren, family and friends for his iconic personality. He was a well-read person, an expressive writer and he had an unmatched attention to detail. Everything he practiced, owned, or did would always stand out. He was very particular about his clothes, and he never compromised on style, size and on matching the right fabric—color of socks and shoes including! He had a taste to buy exquisite things typically much ahead of time—be it an open reel tape recorder, a movie camera and a projector in the 1950s; a stereo record player with external speakers; a cassette player in the 1960s; or a high-fidelity composite music system comprising of direct drive (an unknown thing those days) turntable and open reel tape deck in the 70s. He also had a taste to own and maintain very good cars including a Morris Oxford, a Ford Prefect, the classic *Chevy Bel Air*, a VW Beetle and a Mercedes Benz.

Both Ami and Daddy would always go the extra mile when it came to helping our family and friends. They had purpose-built rooms in our home which is still fondly called as 17-S, by the whole family, where young relatives from remote areas and villages would come and stay on a long-term, free room and board basis to complete their respective education in Lahore. Those rooms had special *barkat* of Allah as the rooms would invariably remain occupied while our dearest parents were alive.

We pray that Allah bless his and Ami's soul and they are rewarded with the highest place in *Jannah*—Ameen.



*Daddy, Ami, Rakhshanda, Ehtisham, Tariq and Tehmina—
1996 (lawn of 17-S)*

Tehmina (Tina), Daughter: My friend, my mentor, my role model, my father. Throughout his life, I had always remained highly dependent on him—all key decisions about my job, and about management of my finances were taken by him. He was a loving husband, father and a friend and was always caring about his family. He was the eldest of 3 brothers and 2 sisters. My father's family and friends played an important role in his life, and he had all the time available for his children, friends and family. He maintained a wonderful balance to keep all his relations happy.

His illness in 1997 was shocking for me and our whole family. However, after witnessing his high spirits and determination, we also started to regain our inner strength and individually and collectively resolved to help him overcome his sickness in all possible ways. Despite his handicap, he continued to guide me and my mother with all day-to-day matters—including my investment decisions, banking matters and follow-ups on bill payments etc. He continued to meet his family and friends, and was a regular participant of all his alumni and 1st PMA reunions.

He loved to travel and did not miss any opportunity where he could take us as well. During his army tenure, he travelled extensively in the US, UK, Europe and the Middle East. He would prefer road travels so that he could see different places. We also drove with him extensively in the Middle East, Europe and in Pakistan. While in Jordan, he drove twice to the UK, and several times to Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon. Upon completion of his tenure there, we all returned to Pakistan by road via Iraq and Iran. He always desired to visit Samarkand and Bokhara, but could not do so due to the political environment of that era. I am glad that I and also my brother and his family fulfilled his dream by visiting those places!

Being the youngest, I always remained his favorite child. We miss you dearly Daddy! I end with a quote by Rumi—*“Don’t grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form.”* Indeed, Daddy’s golden words, his advice/lessons he taught me, and his guidance is my treasure which I so dearly possess in that *“another form.”*

Fatima, Granddaughter: They say that the best moments in life are not created but are lived and felt. And when you look back, they fill your heart with love and gratitude. With his heart-warming smile, a twinkle in his eye and a gentle frown that just meant, ‘you better take my warning seriously’, he knew how to keep us together and help us create our fondest memories. And now when I sit thousands of miles away from my family recalling those moments, I am filled with nothing but love and gratitude for those memories.

My childhood was filled with long stretches of summer vacations spent at my Daddy and Nano’s house - a reprieve from an ordinary but wonderful childhood. And being the eldest grandchild, I had the privilege of getting Daddy’s undivided love and affection. He always challenged me to become a better version of myself, whether that meant math lessons that ended up in tears or a lazy summer afternoon spent re-reading an editorial in Dawn which I was required to reproduce by evening. Daddy was patient, kind, loving and a doting grandfather. When his grandsons turned his beautifully tended front yard into a cricket field, causing collateral damage which included more than a few broken pots, he was quick to forgive with that gentle smile of his.

Daddy loved to work with his hands and I remember him always fixing things around the house. He took pride in his work and poured his love in everything he did. His home 17-S was a labor of his love and our safe haven.

Hassan, Grandson: As the second oldest grandchild, I am fortunate to have been able to spend a lot more time with Daddy than the rest of my cousins and siblings. From my first memories until the time I left for England, I would always remember the loving smile on his face. Daddy was indeed a perfect gentleman, who faced all adversity with a smile on his face. He played an important role in embedding sound human values in all of us. Personally, he encouraged me to form a habit of reading newspapers as I was growing up. I have memories of how he would patiently explain each sentence of the editorial section to me, to help build my interest in general affairs. He also always seemed to enjoy spending time solving my math homework problems when I would discuss those with him.

Among many of life's lessons, Daddy always taught us the importance of discipline and resilience in life. I will always remember Daddy impeccably attired, with Brylcreamed grey hair and a loving smile on his face.

Omar, Grandson: He was a force of nature. Always encouraging, always pushing us to improve - whether it was the little things like correcting our sitting postures or pushing us to do our best in school. He was gentle yet disciplined and full of passion. He got me my first bike - a red PECO. It had support wheels but I vaguely remember he was never happy with those. I always wanted to impress him, not because of fear but because he was so passionately involved in our lives. The first time I rode the bike in a straight line without support was in the family home and I still remember his beaming face. His appreciation meant the world to all of us. Nothing is ever difficult if you give it your best and don't be afraid to fail, he always said!

Throughout his illness he always had a smile about him. We were lucky to spend a great deal of our childhood around him. He had silver in his hair and gold in his heart!

Osman, Grandson: Daddy had a gentle and caring nature. He inspired a love and appreciation for travel and natural life around us. I remember watching the slide shows of his travels vividly as a child which firmly instilled the desire to travel and explore in me. After every lunch he would gather leftover *rotis* and rip them into tiny pieces from his hands and put them out in the lawn on a bird feeding stand. May the prayers of those birds elevate his ranks in Janat (Aameen)? My first introduction to a 'French toast' was from his very own hands when I threw a tantrum about not having a toast, much later in life living in London I perfected the recipe of making a 'pain perdu'. He was very much a man of DIY and his cabinet of tools fascinated us, especially Asad who tinkered a lot with gadgets later on. Perhaps his greatest gift to all of us was providing a home where we all could learn to love, thrive and grow together.

Asad, Grandson: Daddy was stoic, a perfectionist who invested his time and energy in making life better for himself and others around him. He was my teacher who instilled in me the ideals of perfectionism and virtues of patience. He would spend hours meticulously planning every detail of his DIY projects on paper and implement them with skill and precision. This was in the pre-internet era when technical knowledge wasn't as easily available. So he would study manuals and reference material in detail before embarking on any project.

One such project was building a wall fence for ivy to grow on. To him the aesthetics of the whole thing mattered a great deal. I remember somewhat foolishly asking him why not just have the ivy grow on its own; to which he made me think about how the wall would look several years down the line. How it would appear unkempt and be unmanageable unless we shaped a path for the ivy to grow on now and planned for the future. So he spent several days measuring the wall and sawing the fence into the right shape for that particular wall that the ivy was supposed to grow on. It did actually turn out to be as he desired several years on. His home was full of such hand crafted treasures which depicted his love and affection for his own.

Other than his passion for engineering he was an avid reader and regularly read the daily newspaper. He encouraged his grandchildren to form a habit of at least reading the daily editorial to develop a vast world view. Daddy's dashing looks and dapper style is what I am most in awe of; never a button undone or a hair out of place; he carried himself with grace for every occasion and conducted himself with great civility and dignity every step of the way.



Daddy and Naano/Daado

Taimoor, Grandson: Daddy was a loving, caring grandfather, an embodiment of a classic hero of the 1960s; proper in his way, meticulous in his dressing, he'd smoke a cigar and wear Ray-Bans—such was his style. My fondest memories are from the breakfast table where he would teach us dining etiquettes. He loved a soft boiled egg served in an egg cup, and watching him crack the shell all the way around the egg was an experience, he made it look so fancy! We loved going with him for our dentist appointments so he could get us ice cream on the way back —always generous and kind. We grew up listening to his travelogues which instilled a sense of adventure in us. He truly played a pivotal role in shaping my world.

Maliha, Granddaughter: Daddy was a loving and devoted grandfather to his thirteen grandchildren. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, showered us with affection, and also gently guided us with discipline. Although he never scolded us as children, we fondly remember him saying “no monkey business” when we were being particularly naughty. We would feed the birds with him after breakfast and tag along on his errands. I remember one time Daddy was over at our house for *iftari* during Ramzan and I decided I would make something. I came up with a very unappetizing concoction by mixing some plain yogurt with raw onion

slices and served it in one of my toy dishes. I proudly placed it on the trolley and one of my cousins scrunched his nose and with a revolted expression asked what it was. Daddy quickly shushed him and said it looked great and he would try it. He even took a bite or two to encourage me. After his stroke, he was a role model for us all due to his strength, patience, and fortitude, and continued to be there for us all as the best grandfather we could have hoped for.

Amina, Granddaughter: Daddy was an epitome of invincibility and poise. He was the most amazing grandfather and a very loving soul who loved all his grandchildren unconditionally. All of us cousins are learning to walk in his footsteps; he gave each one of us so many memories that will stay with us for a lifetime. I can still recall those childhood moments when we used to come and meet him, he would shake his hands and would be smiling, always happy, forgetting all his worries. Whenever I flip through your photos I see you smiling back at me. He departed this world with a smile which can never be forgotten.

Hamza, Grandson: Our grandfather, whom all of us used to call "Daddy", as I remember him was a kind, loving and brave soul. I have only a few memories of him in good health as he fell ill when I was quite young. The one that comes to mind is one time when he picked me up from school and took a detour to the Post Office on the way back. I was probably 6-7 years old at the time. I stayed in the car while he went inside. At some point during the wait, an extremely scary looking beggar approached the car, put his face against the window and kept saying something. I cannot recall how long that moment lasted but at the time it seemed like the longest minutes of my life, as I locked the doors and tried to slide under the seat to hide and escape what I thought was a kidnapping. When Daddy came back, he turned the guy away, and let out a big comforting laugh almost as if saying, "Chill out son!"

I recall my daily routine of coming home from school every day and saying Salaam to him by putting my cheek in front of him so he could kiss me. I remember always sharing my result card with him, and him sharing his feedback through his hand gestures. He would not like anything less than an A and would ask why I got a B. Growing up with Daddy really taught me courage and resilience. He put up a fight and tried to improve every day. He tried to enjoy whatever life threw at him and made the most of it. I am grateful for his love and greatly cherish a wonderful childhood spent at 17-S.

Saad, Grandson: Daddy was a loving grandfather to all of us. Going to Lahore to visit Daddy and Dado was always the highlight of the year when my siblings and I were children. I have a few fond memories from before Daddy's illness of accompanying him on drives around Lahore, and playing with a set of toys that he and Dado would bring out for me whenever we arrived. After his illness, he continued to be a source of love and inspiration for us all: I will always remember the broad smile on his face as soon as we would enter the house, his encouragement as I read books in the living room, as well as his amusement when my cousins and I would ask if we could turn the TV off to play video games - along with the occasional stern look when things became rowdy. I am grateful for the time I got to spend with him and will always cherish the memories.

Habibullah, Grandson: Daddy has given me the biggest gift of all – his legacy. My fondest memory of him was his birthday – surrounded by family, he sat with poise and elegance, his hair neatly parted and kempt, and his radiant face with a priceless smile looked at me as he gestured with his hands to come closer. I eventually ended up in his lap, but that memory would always stick with me because it reminds me of the pure love, he gave everyone. I carry him in my life every day; in my heart fondly and in my name with pride and honor.

Sami, Grandson: Although I envy my elder siblings and cousins who got to spend more time with Daddy when he was healthy and well, I am grateful for each and every fond memory that I have of him.

I remember him singing the nursery rhyme 'Round and Round the Garden' and anticipating the moment where he would tickle me, followed by me bursting into laughter. My mother often recalls an incident when I was very young and he was visiting us in Islamabad during Ramadan. I flipped over the trolley containing our food for *Iftar*. Daddy did not scold me at all, but found it amusing and laughed heartedly. Years later, when Daddy had fallen ill, my cousin Habib was asked to sit on his knee for a photograph which he mistakenly took to mean 'sit on Daddy's knee'. Again, our loving grandfather only saw the funny side and it brought a huge smile to his face, and in turn to all our faces.

Lahore, to me, was Daddy's home. I would ask my dad how far we were from Lahore when we had already entered the city as I knew we were close. And the first thing my siblings and I did was run to him and Dado. Each Eid, my brother and I would rush down to Daddy's room after we got dressed to greet him. We were also lucky to offer Eid prayers with my father and Daddy.

I will always cherish these priceless moments from my childhood; reminders of the happiness in my grandfather's home and why my siblings and I were never excited to go back to Islamabad.

Eman, Granddaughter: My memories of the time spent with Daddy are few but priceless nonetheless. Daddy was always glowing from what I remember, his face was peaceful, calm and had a sense of spirituality to it. I recall spending many a Sunday afternoon sitting beside him on his bed, showing him my story books and reading to him. I'd watch as his hands would move slightly across the pages and how he would look at me with the brightest smile ever. His love and affection for us was eminent, I remember how he would sometimes kiss our hand when we would greet him with a friendly handshake. He instilled within us qualities of being kind, caring and generous as he was. Our family home was defined by his resilience and love.

Minahil, Great Granddaughter: I never got the chance to meet Daddy, as he passed away a month before I was born, however I feel as though I met him through the endearing and fond memories my mom, uncles, aunts and grandparents shared with me. Even though he is not with us anymore, his legacy remains. We will always remember him as a strong, loving and a kind role model.

Zain, Great Grandson: I never saw Daddy, but I know he was a great person to the country and his family. He is a role model to me from hearing my mom and grandma's stories about him. I will always remember him as a great, strong, funny, loving person.



Enjoying Tea in a Happy Mood



Kakul: 50th Anniversary of 1st PMA in February 2000 (sitting extreme right)



51. PA 2747 (GC-194) Salis Ahmad Qureshi

Salis Ahmad Qureshi S/O K.B. (Late) Moulvi Idrees Ahmad was born on 8.7.1927. He belonged to Krishnan Road, Krishan Nagar, Lahore. On Commissioning he joined P.E.M.E.



52. PA 2748 (GC-246) Capt Asghar Ali Jilani

Asghar Ali Jilani S/O Colonel K. Jilani was born on 12.10.1926. He was born and brought up in England, where he joined Royal Air Force in World War 2. His address in Pakistan was C/O A.D.M.S. 8 Division, Quetta. On Commissioning he joined 16th Punjab Regiment.



53. PA 2749 (GC-254) Lt Col Habib-ur-Rahman Qadri

Habib-ur-Rahman Qadri S/O Mohammad Rahman Qadri was born on 16.2.1928. He belonged to Amir Malat Ghasyan Road, Lucknow. He migrated to Pakistan and joined 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined 16th Punjab Regiment.



54. PA 2751 (GC-287) Maj Mahmud-ud-Zaman Hamid

Mahmud-ud-Zaman Hamid S/O M.A. Hamid was born on 27.10.1927. He belonged to Jahanabad Gaya, Bihar, India. He migrated to Pakistan and joined 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Artillery.



Maj. (R) Mehmood uz Zaman Hamid.

Born in 1927, in the distinguished Mallick family of Bihar, India, Maj. M. Zaman Hamid spent his formative educational years in Patna. His father, Barrister M.A. Hamid was a colleague of Quaid e Azam both at Lincoln's Inn London where their tenures overlapped by a few years and then later back in India as well.

In the later part of his teenage, Zaman Hamid joined what Quaid-e-Azam dubbed the 'Arsenal of Muslim India' – the prestigious Aligarh University and immediately became a zealous participant in the passionate pro-Pakistan activism that contributed so greatly to the creation of our beautiful state. From attending and organizing rallies

to volunteering for election work for Muslim League, a young Zaman Hamid was one of the many foot soldiers who carried the ideology of Pakistan to fruition.

After graduating from Aligarh, following the family tradition of higher education, Maj. Hamid joined Darbangah Medical College in India and was in his third year of medical school when Partition took place. Overcome with an urgency to serve the greater cause, he decided to quit his passion for medicine and joined the on ground canvassing efforts by Muslim League to garner support for the referendum for Pakistan in the western provinces. He travelled till KPK and despite not being fluent in Pushto, urged locals with the phrase "Shenay Sandooq Wa Wachwa" – 'Cast your vote in the green box!' It was an excruciatingly difficult time as he always recalled because anti-Pakistan elements would attack and beat the group of young students frequently, but the stakes were too high and these young souls were not going to give up on their dream of a separate homeland. Their untiring efforts in the face of such hostility, resulted in the historic victory of NWFP voting in favour of Pakistan. Upon his return back to Bihar, and now with no option to go back to medical school he decided to enlist for Army Recruitment, and was easily accepted.

His appointment letter with then Royal Indian Army is now part of our family archives. It was on the basis of this that he was also accepted in Pakistan Military Academy.

He served as a gunner in Artillery corps, positioned in Sialkot during both 65 and 71 wars, perhaps with little idea at the time how his war experiences would make for exciting bedtime stories for his grandchildren many decades later. While setting up communication lines serving as an OP in Sialkot border, an Indian mortar shell landed next to his jeep. Miraculously him and his driver both survived, but all communication lines were damaged. Their effort to repair the lines wasn't productive and so with no communication with the unit, he was declared missing in action. It took them over 2 and a half days, dodging Indian assault under the open sky and with no ammo to defend them, to somehow make it back to their Unit. He did, however, extract his revenge later for having his jeep destroyed. A day or so later, a low flying Indian aircraft was spotted but the anti-aircraft guns were unavailable for one reason or another. He was not a man to miss this opportunity, and with some fiery encouragement, he and his brothers in arms brought the plane down with mere machine guns available to them at the time! He always carried a little regret for never having completed his higher education, and so post retirement, joined the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi and earned an MBA, alongside serving in National Logistics Cell. He proudly used to tell his children that money, land and property are all fleeting entities. He left generations of them behind in India without a second thought. The real legacy is education and that must never ever be compromised. He raised 4 children with his dutiful wife, with whom his companionship lasted over 54 years.

He found great joy in firearms, and regarded the maintenance of his many rifles and shotguns as a revered act. An impassionate hunter, he spent many a day's bringing partridges home for barbeque. But as the years moved on, his personality mellowed. His fondness for eating quails transitioned to him feeding all the birds of his neighborhood and as age caught up with him, he spent the last decade of his life enjoying gardening and tending to his flowers. A multifaceted personality, he passed down an endless love of photography and animals in all his grandchildren.

He left behind a legacy of high values for his family. A resolute pride in halal sources of income, compassion for family, both close and extended as a religious duty, and an unflinching resolve in serving Pakistan.

During his life he wore the many titles of Abba Jan, Dadajan, Nanajan, Zama Bhaiyya and Maj. Sahab, and for those that saw him in any of these roles, the experience was nothing less than a privilege. He was a man of God, who is missed dearly every day, and yet celebrated in the many memories he left behind.
-- Haya Hamid Rizvi (grand daughter)

The Dashing Young Man

Mahmud-uz-Zaman Hamid





Living a Retired Life



While in the unit

A Dashing Young Gunner Officer





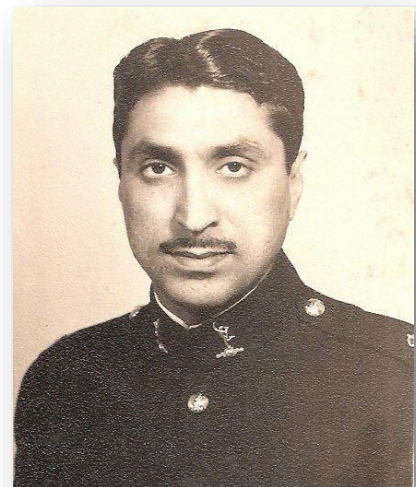
55. PA 2752 (GC-178) Maj Mahmud Ahmad Kreashi

Mahmud Ahmad Kreashi son of Dr Abdul Wahid was born 5.6.1926. He belonged to Hamid Manzil, Srinagar, Kashmir. He migrated to Pakistan through the help of the Pakistan High Commissioner, Delhi. On arrival in Pakistan, he took part in the liberation struggle against the Indian Occupation of Kashmir. He later joined Pakistan Air Force. Due to the contacts of some friends in the Army, he opted for Army and joined 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul.

Major Mahmud A. Kreashi (1926-2017)

We were raised by a man who led his life from his heart, unafraid of conventional, narrow-minded views, who raised the bar for us on what it means to be a human being. He valued kindness and relationships above all other worldly accolades. His wit, curiosity and love of arigorous discussion on topics ranging from the political to the philosophical were often the landmark of our Childhood.

He encouraged us to question and to “not be a black and white thinker” to always make room for curiosity and empathy. To be nuanced and open hearted and always land in kindness and honesty. To respect and regard those that earned it. He taught us to spot the dogmatic, rigid, unyielding form of oppression either within our own thinking or in others. He modeled for us self-reflection, as a way to discover our highest aspiration and goodness, and to stay accountable for our actions.



Major Mahmud Kreashi



*Maj. & Mrs. Muhmud Kreashi,
Asma Mahmud, Asif Mahmud (son)
and Peejo Sehr*

Major Mahmud Kreashi was commissioned in the Army Corps of Signals with stints in the Inter Services Selection Board (ISSB) and eventually the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), where he retired in 1975. He joined his brother in business and continued to support the Army as a civilian.

In the early 2000s, he moved to the US and lived near Washington, DC. He spent most of his time keeping up with his friends in Pakistan, having his rigorous debates, and telling stories to the younger generations. Most of whom became his closest of friends.

Our father had the rare capacity to love unconditionally. As we pause and look around his legacy in us, his children and his grandchildren, we see him so alive in all of us. He gave us all the greatest of gifts- of being seen, valued, and so completely loved and accepted for who each of us uniquely are, and celebrated our big and small achievements and loved us through our failures like a true elder. He was a tender-hearted

man with courage, intellect and conviction. He was truly a blessing to us all.

Mahmud kreashie belonged to Srinagar. He had been already selected for the Air Force and was waiting for the call when the fighting broke out in Kashmir. He came over to Pakistan, when the Indian Army occupied Kashmir. To come to Pakistan, he went over to Delhi and approached Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi for help. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan was on a visit to Delhi, and was returning to Pakistan in his special aircraft. The Pakistan High Commissioner arranged to send him to Pakistan on the plane by which the Prime Minister was flying back. It was a good fortune for him. On reaching Rawalpindi, he joined Azad Kashmir Government, where he was assigned the task of organizing a batch of Kashmiri speaking volunteers at the DAV College building. He was working with Mr. Abdul Rahman Mitha and Mt Reddy; the proprietor and editor of "Kashmir Times" being issued from Srinagar. They had been exiled from there for their pro "Self-determination Role" after the occupation by the Indian Troops. In the designing of the flag for Azad Kashmir, Mahmud also had a hand and a say. He was also associated with the "International Brigade", which consisted of all volunteers, who were fighting for the cause of liberation for the Kashmiris. They had an American National also, who was an active participant of this struggle. He later left for States. Mahmud Kreashie, too was so imbued and excited with the spirit of rejoining the fighting in Occupied Kashmir, that he requested his Company Commander (Major Tikka Khan) to transfer him to OTS whenever it so starts, so that he can join the volunteers fighting there. This request was denied and thus he continued with his training at PMA

RECOLLECTION – TRAIN RIDE TO PMA (1948)

The train was crawling along, wheezing and groaning, making me think of tired workers hauling heavy bags for travelers in mountain in the lovely valley of Kashmir where I had come from. It was January of 1948, just 4 months after Pakistan was born out of what was British India. Railway was strained in transporting refugees and coal being cut off from Bharat, Railway Workshop at Mughalpura with limited resources adapted to run on crude oil in short time available. The train was moving so slow that one could easily hop out walk along and hop back in the same compartment.

We were a group of young people eager to begin a new life in Pakistan Military Academy as the first batch of newly selected cadets. We mostly got to know each other for the first time in the Transit Camp at Rawalpindi before taking the train to Kakul. Some of us had formed groups with others who shared our interests. I came from Rawalpindi where I had participated in the Kashmir liberation war after leaving Srinagar. Aziz Alam, Vahidy and Gibbs, the three of us, had fun exploring the town and visiting a private club 'La Golanderina' in the short time we had become friends.

We were welcomed by loud, stern and strict commands to lift our luggage and line up for boarding the army vehicles outside. Those who were light-weight like me, had no trouble, but it was amusing to watch others who had to balance both the box and the roll on their head. No one was spared.

The ride at the back of the open truck with the cold wind of January might not have been enjoyable, but I liked it as I was used to such weather at home. At PMA, we faced the usual ragging.

But to continue the story, I would have to go back in time and give some background of life before.

Life in Srinagar

Our generation grew up with World War II (1939-45) and the political turmoil in the sub-continent. The world has been changing faster than ever since then.

I arrived in Pakistan from Srinagar, Kashmir in late November 1947. Srinagar was a holiday station for the Allied forces. My experience of the war was through social contacts and movies, showing its glamorous, romantic and adventurous side. My family was not in the military. We could not be, because the Muslims from the valley were almost excluded from joining the Maharaja's army. My father was a private doctor. He was a public and social figure, who had served as a municipal Commissioner for most of his life, and was actively involved in educational activities. One of my Brothers, a lawyer, was in politics and had been elected to the first legislative assembly of the state. He was later exiled by the Indian Occupied Kashmir Govt.

After studying in college for two years, I left in 1944 and joined my brother, Latif, in his business. He was a Radio-electric engineer (the word 'electronic' was not used then) and he had a shop that sold radios and gramophones to visitors mostly from abroad. During this time, I was involved in a lot of social, political, and somewhat pseudo-intellectual activities, meeting and socializing with people who came to Srinagar. They were students on holiday from Lahore, political activists, artists, poets, army officers on holiday and people from all kinds of backgrounds from everywhere. The mood was relaxed and friendly.

However, the political activities had an impact on us. We could not stay indifferent. It made us grow up faster in our mind and attitude. We became more aware of local and regional events. Russia's alliance with the Allies led to the lifting of ban and release of communist party members and supporters. Leftist literature as well as, stories and even movies on the deeds of Resistance in occupied countries were available, which fostered 'intellectuals'. Some young men who leaned towards leftist views even joined the war.

However, a wish and a dream for adventure of being an air force pilot sometimes bubbled up inside me. I once even tried to join a pre-war cadet institution in Lahore being too young for regular enrollment. But my family stopped me halfway and brought me back. That was a temporary phase and I forgot about it.

The army was not my planned career choice. Later events changed that.

Nazir Chaudhry, who had no siblings, would go to Kashmir every summer with his parents. We were close friends personally and as families. He wanted to join the Air Force. Nazir's parents had seen an RIAF aircraft crash in Lahore recently. An RIAF pilot, Flt Lt Muzamdar, (who they knew personally) crashed while doing aerobatics. His engine fell off. His parents wanted to dissuade him from joining the Air force. We talked and he agreed to join the army instead and asked me to do the same. I agreed. He called me from Rawalpindi on his way back as he had applied and got selected for 3rd IMA. I was not very interested and did not go.

In 1946, I became acquainted with an Air force officer who was recruiting people. He persuaded me to fill out a form for joining the Air force, but I didn't think much of it until partition, when I had to choose between Pakistan or India. I chose Pakistan without hesitation. The Jammu & Kashmir government had signed a standstill agreement with Pakistan when I was called to appear before 52 Selection Board at 5 Cambridge barracks, Rawalpindi in Sep 1947. I had no idea that 5 Cambridge Barracks would play an important role in my future career, as the Army School of Signals was located there and I did all of my technical courses there.

After passing the selection for the Air Force by the Selection Board, I returned to Srinagar. The fighting had not begun yet and the movement between Rawalpindi and Srinagar was unrestricted. I reached Rawalpindi for my interview in Sept 1947, when there was night curfew, riots, and some Indian Army units still waiting to go to India. Srinagar valley was peaceful but there was trouble in Poonch, a province of the State where people had rebelled against Maharaja's rule. Most of them had been let go from the former British Indian Army after the war. They had learned and witnessed the cruelties done by Maharaja's troops on their families and rose

against them. That's how the armed fight against Dogra Rule began, which later spread to other parts of the state. People from nearby Pakistan territories including the tribal areas also came to help.

This was the time most disturbing for us in Srinagar. My account of the time and subsequent travel to Pakistan and participating in the Azad Kashmir movement is a subject of my narration elsewhere.

We watched the Indian Army spearheaded by Sikh troops from Patiala State flown and marched through Srinagar. Also heard about the tribal 'lashkars' reaching the outskirts of the city, could even hear gunshots but none inside the town knew what to do. How to help. Some in the inner-city area, true to the spirit of Kashmiri hospitality and anti-Indian invasion sentiments, started preparing the traditional Kashmiri food for the fighters. The area was soon put under total curfew and all roads sealed from the civil lines. No one from the local population was taken into confidence. This pattern of lack of trust and information remained a hall mark of attitude throughout

The Pakistan Military Academy Kakul

The Muslim cadets who were at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, went to different Regimental Centers to wait for their joining of Pakistan Military Academy, which was chosen to be at Kakul, Abbottabad. They all gathered at Rawalpindi for some days before joining. Nazir saw me when I was waiting for my call for PAF. When he learned that I was joining Air Force and was waiting for final Airforce Medical Examination, he was disappointed and angry. He took me directly to the AG's branch GHQ and made me switch my choice to Army. In those days, we had to write three choices in our application, which could be from any of the three services. I had written army as my second choice. It was not hard to change the choice. We spent the few days in Rawalpindi together where we met many old friends and acquaintances from Srinagar and spent time with them.

Nazir was my senior in PMA. His course, IMA-PMA (3rd IMA) welcomed us. They did it with the usual amount of 'ragging' which was too much for someone like me. That's how I met the cadet Sergeant Major of Khalid Company, my assigned company. CSM Shakir Durrani (who left the army early, had a successful career as a financier and became the MD of the national Carrier PIA). When I was about to complain Nazir came to help me and ordered "Attention! Left Turn, Double March" and took me to my room and explained the situation and told me that he would look out for me and suggested me to cooperate. That's how my life in the Pakistan Army began.

The seniors led us to the barber shop for a crew-cut, and then we got our uniform with army boots, bedding and other personal things. They also showed us the canteen where we could buy stuff, etc. It was January and it was cold in Kakul (Abbottabad) so we also got some coal to heat the room. And thankfully, we also got a part time 'orderly' to help us. But they were not allowed to polish our boots. We had to do that ourselves and have them checked by the seniors (cadet sergeants) every morning. That was how our routine started: getting up, having bed tea from the mess, showing our polished boots to the senior cadet sergeant, doing morning drill/ PT, changing and hurrying for breakfast, going back to classes, having a short break, going out for games, and finally having dinner in the mess in proper uniform. Meanwhile, we had to take care of the layout of the room where everything had to be in order for any surprise check. If anything was wrong or missing, we had to face the punishment.

We soon discovered that we had something in common no matter what our background was. We slowly learned the benefit of 'ragging'. There were sons of rulers and chiefs (one of them was the Mehtar of Chitral), active military personnel, others from different education institutes like military colleges to rural government

schools, all having many pre-conceived notions and attitudes. Some came from military families, many did not, like me. Those who had recently moved from King Edwards Military College, Dehradun, India, stood out. They needed some time to fit in with others because they had some advantage being somewhat familiar with the routine. Some even had basic military manuals that would be the basis of our future training.



With his wife Dr. Zahida Qureshi and his three children and three of the four grand children outside their house in Virginia



Son in law Imran Hashmi 2008



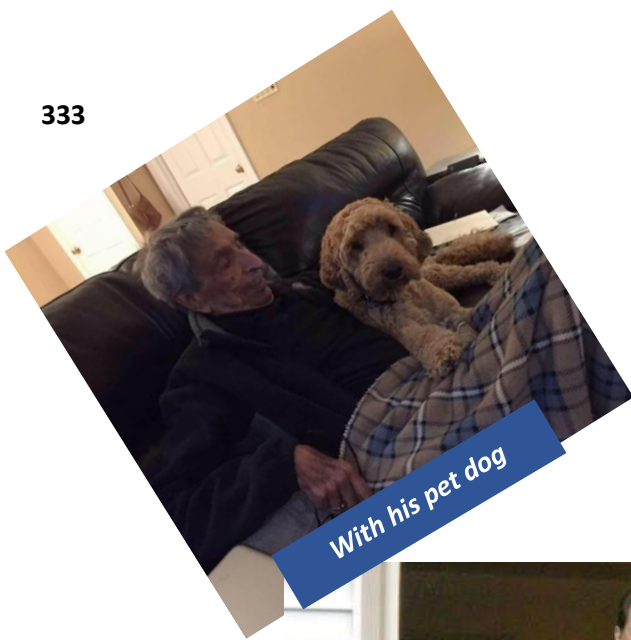
Surrounded with family, 2008



Surrounded by his children and grandchildren







With his pet dog



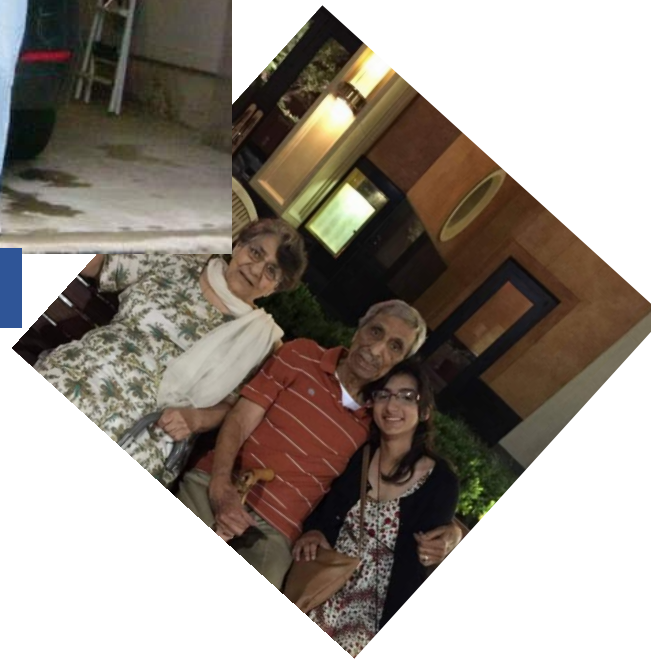
His special relationship with all his grandchildren, he was just a Skype



Two other close family pictures



His special relationship with all his grandchildren, he was just a Skype call away



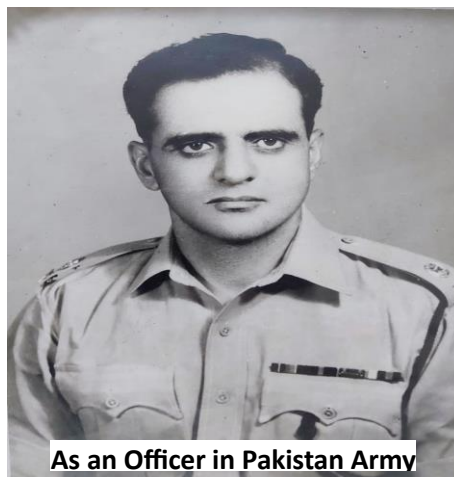
The story of raising and initial days of Pakistan Military Academy has been covered in details by many but here I would mention the following two: -

1. Brig Ingles. The first British commandant's book: "The Last of the Bengal Lancers". Who has given full details of the circumstances and difficulties of initial raising of the institution?
2. Brig Mian Mahmud being one of the Pioneer 1st PMA Long course has very aptly covered the entire beginning of the Academy with the story of cadets and staff, and life in the academy.



56. PA 2753 (GC-166) Lt Col Mohammad Akhtar Rizwani

Mohammad Akhtar Rizwani S/O Mohammad Ibrahim was born on 15.1.1929. He belonged to 4/19/20 A. Jacob Lines, Karachi. On Commissioning he joined E.M.E.



As an Officer in Pakistan Army

Remembering Lieutenant Col

Muhammad Akhtar Rizwani, *Imtiaz Sanad* (1965).

During his illustrious carrier, he held various appointments, such as Command of the 97 EME Battalion and CEME of Baluchistan Scouts (Now Frontier Corp Baluchistan).

Lieutenant Col Muhammad Akhtar Rizwani was born on 15/01/1929 in Delhi (India) to a Punjabi (Arain) Landlord Family. His Father Hajji Ibrahim Rizwani was a distinguished member of the Indian Railway Board and was amongst the first few renowned families of Jalandhar to opt and moved to Independent Pakistan. Lt Col Akhtar Rizwani was the Youngest of 3 brothers and 3 sisters. His elder brother Aslam Rizwani was the one to establish the very first foundry of Gujranwala with the name of "Rizwani Foundry", his second elder brother Akram Rizwani carried out his early education from Aligarh and later did his graduation in Civil Engineering from UET Lahore. His two younger sisters were also very well educated, one was a Gold medalist in Math statistics from the University of Punjab, and the other one remained Principal of the "Khatoon-e-Pakistan", a famous top-ranking girl's College of its time in Karachi.

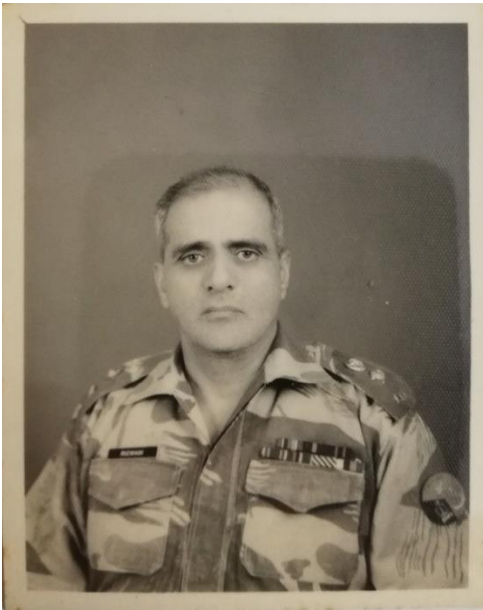


"Shahadat" is WHAT we ALL WANT!

As a cadet in PMA

Due to his distinguished performance and brilliant performance in science subjects, he was recommended for the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps. And was amongst the first group of officers selected for Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering College UK.

Glimpses from Life!

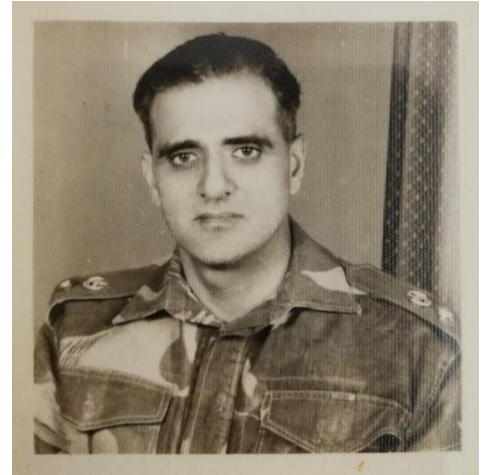


Faded Memories

faith in Allah (SWT), gave the strength to hold the Indians not only at bay, but to also take the offensive and that too to their homeland. It was a dream come true for Young Major Akhtar Rizwani. He was part of the offensive that Pakistan had launched in the Kham Karan Sector. He was unable to hold himself from the temptation of fighting up in front for his beloved Land. Although he was also contributing his fair share of expertise in the maintenance and recovery of his Armoured Formation, his thirst to do something incredible or to embrace Shahadat remained paramount for him. This was evident from his enthusiasm, time and again, but he was counseled by his Commanding officer on this and told that his expertise was required more towards the technical side of repair maintenance in aid of the Pakistan army behind the main defense. But Lt Col Akhtar Rizwani, like many others who wished to do something extraordinary for his country, kept carrying out a recce of the border and watching the deployment of the enemy forces in his spare time. After detailed recce and observation, he concluded that the enemy had a certain complacency set in their minds. There were these weaknesses that he thought which needs to be exploited. He particularly noticed that the enemy was not vigilant towards their Leaguer areas for the tanks at night. Moreover, he also observed that a few enemy tanks had been left in the battlefield area, which could have been made serviceable through minor repairs. He collected all this information by himself crossing the front line and carrying out recce impersonating himself as an Indian Army officer, as per his colleagues.

Joining Officer Cadre

In 1955 Lt Col Akhter Rizwani joined 501 EME Workshop as 2nd lieutenant. Promoted to the rank of Lt Col in the year 1972 and got retired from the Army in 1981. During the 1965 war, he served on Eastern Border West Pakistan, performing Brigade OC EME Workshop duties. All the time his heart was throbbing with a dire desire of achieving the highest honor of Shahadat in his heart (as narrated by his colleagues), and he always dreamed to fight at the forefront for his beloved country. He joined his unit in Jan 1965 and was happy to be with the troops when the concentration of the troops took place in June 1965. On 6th September 1965 India attacked Pakistan. Though India enjoyed vast superiority over Pakistan in the strength of troops and armament held, but the fighting spirits and the belief and





Once he also dined in the Indian officer's mess to gain their confidence and gather information. After his detailed recce and planning he decided to implement his plan. And finally, with the help of one of his Volunteered NCO, he himself took maintenance tools with him and slowly started repairing 16 x damaged Indian tanks standing in the leaguers and drove



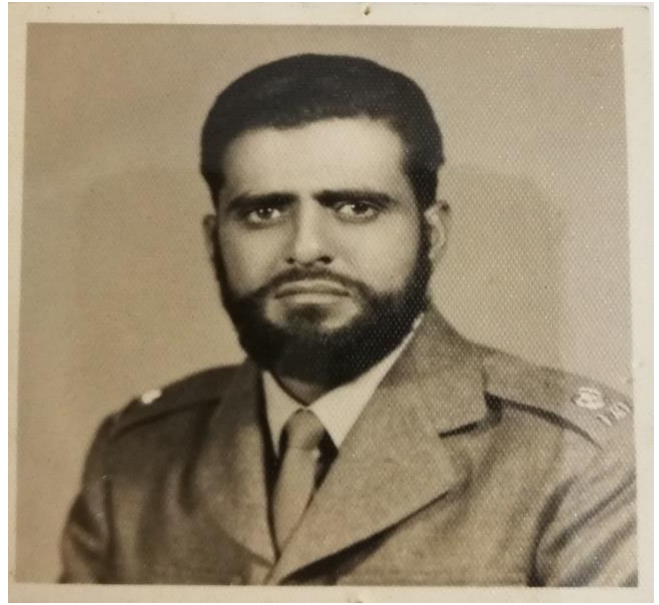
them across the border in Pakistan in batches, as time and environment permitted him. A feat not considered less than madness. His colleagues narrate that at times he did this act under the volleys of enemy bullets. His innate desire and hope for embracing "Shaadat" remained elusive as Allah

(SWT) had ordained some other plans for him. His great act of valor was acknowledged but not with open hearts and mind, as some people would not believe this story. His citation was sent for the award of "Sitara-e-Jurat", but he was awarded "COAS Imtiaz-i-Sanad". Astonishingly throughout his life, he never mentioned or bragged about his act of bravery even with his family Members. This only came into the knowledge of many when his great act of bravery was published as an article in the Urdu Language magazine "Siara Digest Lahore" edition of November 1965.

He was also an ardent traveler and adventurer, after completing his degree in the UK he traveled back to Pakistan in his personal car and caravan along with his family which was a difficult proposition in those days. But true adventurers from their heart can only enjoy this Bliss. Post-1965 war, he with a heavy heart, for not achieving the Honor of Shahadat continued his duties in the service of the Army. He served another two years on the Eastern front and was posted to ITD Directorate. It was then he felt attracted toward spiritualism. And started devoting himself to Sufism besides his professional duties. In 1972 he was promoted to the rank of Lt Col and posted as CO of 97 EME Bn. He served in this Rank till his retirement in 1981. Lt Col Akhter Rizwani totally devoted himself to Allah and his people. For a very long time, he restricted himself away from worldly affairs and extensively traveled within the country for the well-being of the masses. Carrying out the welfare of the poor and needy. He got himself settled in the small town of "Dingah Sharif" near Kaharian in the district Gujrat where his spiritual teacher "Mian Mohammad Deen" was also settled. Lt Col Akhter Rizwani following the footsteps of his spiritual teacher had many followers in his spiritual journey. He died in "Dingah Shareef" on 22nd November 2005 preaching to people Islam's message in the light of the Quran and Sunnah, of Love, affection, and care for all of mankind and living beings. His Shrine is also situated in "Dingah Sharif" and is visited by thousands of his devotees... His annual Urs is held on the 18th Shawal of the Islamic Calendar



Young Cadet PMA



As a Young Officer Supporting a Smart Beard



With Faculty of Royal College of Engineering UK



With Colleagues in UK



During Field Exercise somewhere in Europe



With Foreign officers in UK



Having leisure time with a Colleague, Azhar Ali Syed



With His Beloved Car and Caravan with which he travelled back to Pakistan from UK



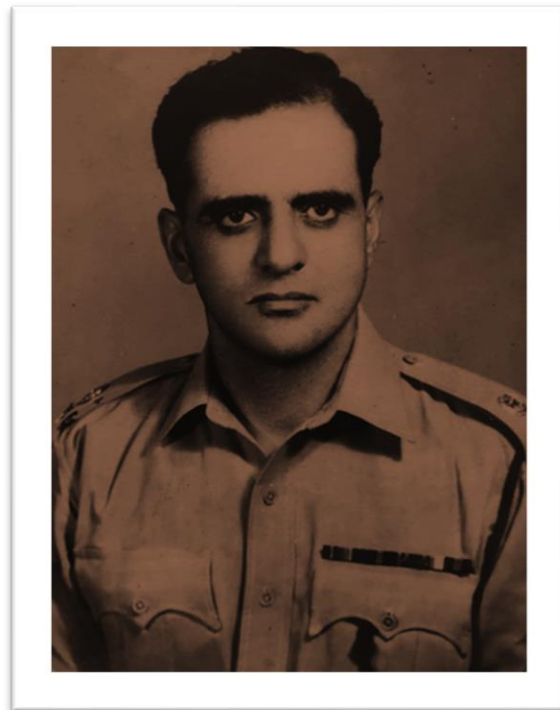
With his Family in College Campus UK



At birth of his first daughter in UK



With his Team of Officers Under command





57. PA 2754 (GC-229) Lt Rajab Abdul Hussain Wazir

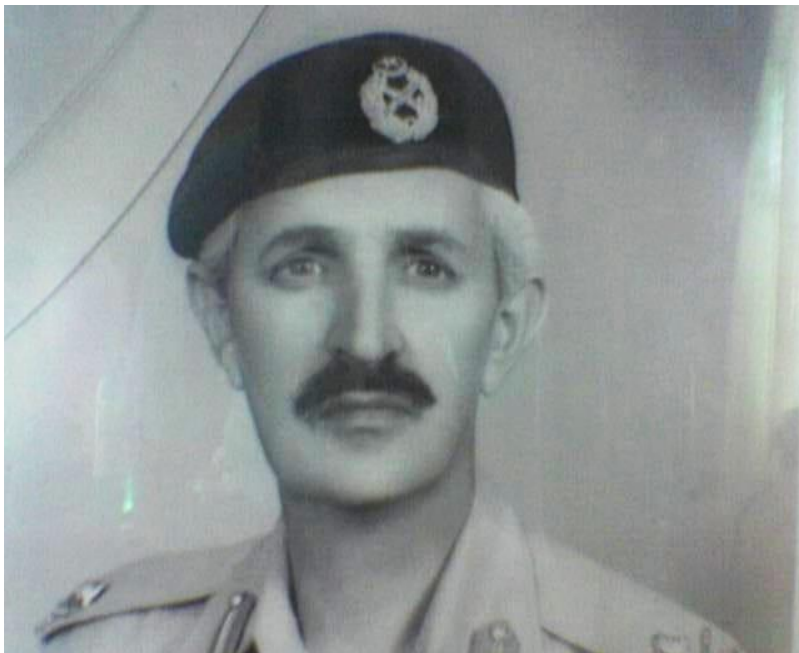
Rajab Ahmad Hussain Wazir S/O P.A. Uazir was born on 15.2.1927. He belonged to 259, Bazaar Road, Bandra, Bombay, India. He migrated to Pakistan and joined 1st PMA Long Course at Kakul. On Commissioning he joined Royal Pakistan Engineers,



58. PA 2755 (GC-231) Maj. Gen. Rehmat Ali Shah Bokhari

Maj. Gen. Rehmat Ali Shah Bokhari S/O Capt. Toor Khan was born on 15.5.1929. He belonged to Banda Fateh Khan, Lachi, Kohat. On Commissioning he joined 12th Frontier Force Regiment.

War of 1971 -- As remembered by Wajahat Ali Shah Bokhari, eldest son of Late Maj Gen. Rehmat Ali Shah Bokhari, 1st PMA Long Course, 13 FF.







26. Major Gen: R.A.S Bukhari,
Receiving Lt.Gen:
Sawar Khan, MLA
Punjab at Bahawalpur
Halipad.

8.5.78

SERVICE DATA OF
PA-2755 MAJ GEN (LATE) REHMAT ALI SHAH

| <u>S/No</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Appt</u> | <u>Duration</u> | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | | | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> |
| 1. | Cadet | FMA Kakul | - | 18.3.49 | 3.2.50 |
| 2. | 2/Lt | Inf School Qta | - | 4.2.50 | 13.7.50 |
| 3. | " | 12 FF | - | 14.7.50 | 31.1.51 |
| 4. | " | Att 9 Div | - | 1.2.51 | 30.10.51 |
| 5. | Lt | 12 FF | Pl Comd | 1.11.51 | 27.1.53 |
| 6. | T/Capt | " | Coy Comd | 28.1.53 | 27.10.53 |
| 7. | " | CAF Peshawar | 2IC SW Scouts | 1.11.53 | 17.9.54 |
| 8. | " | Chitral Scouts | 2nd Wing Comd | 27.9.54 | 31.7.55 |
| 9. | " | QMCS | Adjut | 1.8.55 | 9.1.56 |
| 10. | " | " | 2nd Wing Comd | 9.1.56 | 31.10.56 |
| 11. | T/Maj | 13 FF | Coy Comd | 1.11.56 | 25.10.59 * |
| 12. | " | 12 Div | Coy Comd | 25.10.59 | 11.9.60 |
| 13. | " | Inf School | Instr Cl B | 11.9.60 | 15.12.62 |
| 14. | " | C&SC Qta | On Course | 17.12.62 | 20.12.63 |
| 15. | " | 13 FF | Coy Comd | 04.1.64 | 24.6.64 |
| 16. | " | Att British Unit West Germany | - | 25.6.64 | 02.1.65 |
| 17. | " | 13 FF | Coy Comd | 02.1.65 | 28.3.65 |
| 18. | " | MS Branch, GHQ | DAMS | 14.1.65 | 08.9.65 |
| 19. | " | 13 FF | Coy Comd | 08.9.65 | 26.3.66 |
| | | " | Offg Comd | 26.3.66 | 21.4.66 |
| 20. | Lt Col | " | Comd | 21.4.66 | 05.7.67 |
| 21. | " | HQ 9 Div | GSO-1 | 05.7.67 | 03.2.69 |
| 22. | " | C&SC Qta | War Course | 10.2.69 | 29.1.70 |
| 23. | " | 14 FF | CO | 29.1.70 | 17.6.70 |
| 24. | Col | Inf School Qta | Instr Cl A | 17.6.70 | 1.5.71 |
| 25. | Brig | HQ 25 Bde | Comd | 1.5.71 | 9.10.73 |
| 26. | " | FF Centre | Comdt | 9.10.73 | 30.3.74 |
| 27. | Maj Gen | FC Baluchistan | IGFC | 30.3.74 | 21.12.76 |
| 28. | " | Svc loaned to Cabinet Sectt | | 21.12.76 | 25.1.78 |
| 29. | " | 35 Div | GOC | 25.1.78 | 17.8.78 |

Died during svc in CMH Lahore at 1100 Hrs
on 18 Aug 78.

SOS Pak Army - 18 Aug 78

The episode has a historical backdrop. Although very captivating, if I try to narrate the whole of it here, finishing may take a long time.

In what follows, a few terms of reference are as follows:

- 1) I shall call him Baba (we did when we were growing up). His full name was Rehmat Ali Shah Bokhari.
- 2) The war means the war of 1971 between India and Pakistan which resulted in the independence of Bangladesh.
- 3) The city is the city of Bahawalnagar.

It was the war of 1971 in December. Baba at the time was a Brigadier. He was commanding a Brigade known to be the 25th, but Independent. If I am correct, there were only two Independent Brigades in the Pakistan Army at the time. The commander of an Independent Brigade reported directly to a Corps Commander (a Lieutenant General) and not a Division Commander (Major General), because, the strength of an Independent Brigade is about that of a Division.

His mission was to defend along the Indian border a stretch of 140 miles, down south of Bahawalnagar (a city in Pakistan close to the border of India) and most importantly the city itself. The job was difficult because the Indians had mobilized two Divisions along this 140-mile stretch. I shall leave out the details of how he out-manuevered the Indians at various sectors in the south and try to compile only what happened at the Bahawalnagar border.

To defend the city, he made a plan and strategized it. The city is about 5 to 6 miles distance from the border. The miles may not be exact but it's not far from the border with India. Baba had located himself with a Battalion of Frontier Force, which was located 2 Miles short of the border and deployed there. He had done so because he wanted to be with the troops and close to the border. He had done so as he wanted to lead his troops from up in front, and also to have quick access to all information for timely decision. He mixed with his troops every evening. He did not consider it appropriate to stay in the comfort of the accommodation available at the Bahawalpur rest house.

Across the divide, on the Indian side, about 1 to 2 miles deep (again those miles may not be perfect), there were a few high points, which looked like sand dunes. Harmless, as they may have seemed, but they presented a vintage position to the enemy as they were at some height and provided good observation of the area. The city with long-range guns was definitely within reach, the supply lines between the city and the border were easy to disrupt, and worst of all, the movement and deployment of our forces were impossible to conceal. Although the bombing of the city could not have probably been completely averted, the advantage of an apex view of the supply lines and the troops had to be neutralized. Any military analyst would reckon the disadvantage of a defense force being observed from higher ground. He, therefore, worked out a deft scheme. He started building up forces down south. A few miles from Bahawalnagar front, towards the south, there were a couple of bridges (they probably exist even today) over a small water canal between India and Pakistan. To the Indians, he started displaying his intentions of crossing the bridges into their territory, to capture a few villages a short distance from the border, if the war broke.

A lot of this build-up, was, however, mere posturing. For instance, it included tanks made up of tin, painted green and dark, and made to look like camouflage. Similarly, he managed to depict some long-range artillery and a few light and heavy vehicles. The Indians wanted to defend the villages and hence concentrated their attention to that area.

While the Indians were waiting for the war to breakout, they concentrated on defending those territories which they thought he would attack. He instead attacked those dunes which were overlooking the area and the Indian's were not expecting that, and were taken by surprise. He attacked with a blitz, using a small but efficient force during the night of December 01 and 02, and captured those heights. He did not wait for any orders, but instead used his initiative to attain a surprise. The actual war was announced on December 3rd. His timings were about right and he achieved an element of surprise.

He not only retained the sand dunes during the 17 days of the war, but also successfully defended the city of Bahawalnagar.

After the war the Indians sent him a 72-hour (3 days) ultimatum to quit the dunes or else they will attack. He replied that he fought to possess those positions and not to quit them. The time passed without an attack. He agreed to order respite for his regular troops and therefore replaced them with 18- and 20-year-old reserves under the command of a couple of officers. The Indians waited for their opportunity and launched a massive attack involving tanks after five days in the evening hours, instead of the three days ultimatum they had earlier given. He heard the opening sounds of heavy gunfire while working in his camp, and he rushed in his jeep to the border in his full uniform with the red tapes showing. The other senior officers of the Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Nayar Murad and Major Saranjam Khan, also rushed in to join him at the border. When they reached there, they from a distance saw the reserves falling back, vacating the dunes and taking shelter in a dry ravine at the foot of the dunes. The Indian armor (tanks) attack was overwhelming. He ordered the two officers to accompany him to the battle, where the reserves were. They looked at them in utter surprise and shock, as they did not expect the senior officers to join them in the defense of those positions. It was not expected of him. Their disbelief was soon over as the troops saw the Commanding Officer and the 2 i/c follow the Brigade Commander into the ravine. He addressed them for lifting their morale and told them that he would lead them back into an attack to recapture those positions. According to him, it seemed like he was not only addressing the young boys from the reserve force but also his own children. With this the attack was started and was led by all the Senior Officers themselves

Fortunately, all this was done in such a short span of time that the enemy did not have enough time to consolidate their positions and fortify them. Return and the recapture of those positions was not difficult. What followed is a story of great valor.

The sun was about to go down. Baba, Nayar Murad, and Saranjam were watching from those positions, in the glow of the setting sun, the offensive launched by their three tanks, and firing intensively at their locations. At that time, they started calling for their own Artillery Fire to neutralize the tank attack of the enemy. The officers in the Brigade Headquarters were in a state of confusion and shock, because they did not have any information of the location of the Brigade Commander, and nor were they expecting that he is missing from the Camp. The artillery would not respond to the calls of the officers in the Brigade Headquarters, because according to them they were under strict orders from the Brigade Commander (Baba), to open fire only if they ever received direct orders from him. While all this chaos was being sorted out the Indian tanks started firing heavily and directly at the positions now held on those dunes. It was especially so because they saw Baba in his uniform of a Brigadier. Their message to their superiors about the Pakistani Brigade Commander being involved in the counterattack was heard on the wireless set being operated by an officer accompanying Baba and the others. The signals were crossing between the tanks and their higher command. It was just about that time when the Pakistani artillery realized where Baba was, and came into action in support. Just at that time Saranjam got hit by a splinter from a tank shell. Baba had switched positions with him only a few seconds

before the splinter struck him, as he wanted to obtain a better view of the Indian tanks. Saranjam was bleeding profusely. He was lifted by Baba and Nayar Murad and rushed into a ditch at the bottom of the Indian side of the descent. By now the officer handling the wireless set had lost his life and there was no one to direct the fire from the Pakistani artillery. The Indian tanks reckoning the helplessness of the situation, started approaching the ditch to either capture or crush the officers and all others standing with them. They also were bringing in intensive fire on the positions on the top. Amidst all this, two Pakistani officers arrived at those sand dunes with rocket launchers. They quickly positioned themselves, and started firing in the direction of the Indian tanks. They hit the tank which was closest to the ditch on the extreme right of the three tanks with their second round. Before they could fire again, one of the officers died of a tank shell bursting close to him. Now there was only one officer left to engage the tanks with the rocket launcher. He fired at the tank which was originally in the middle, getting dangerously close to the ditch, but missed it. He was surviving a lot of fire from the two remaining tanks. Baba looked up at him and ordered him the second time and this time with some profanity to abandon the position and instead help direct the artillery fire if he could. The young officer looked down at Baba, direct in the eyes, smiled, and then aimed and fired at the tank in the middle (originally) and knocked it out of action. By now the Pakistani Artillery was bringing intense fire on the third tank and forced him to retreat. This provided an adequate cover for Baba, Nayyar Murad, and Saranjam, who was in critical condition, to make their way back to the Pakistani soil.

The dunes, as well as some territory in the south, occupied by forces under Baba, stayed in Pakistan's control until their return was eventually negotiated by the political governments, probably a year after the war.

Lt Col Nayyar Murad retired probably soon after the war. Major Saranjam retired eventually as Lieutenant General. He was also awarded the Star for Bravery (Sitara-e- Jurat) for his actions at the Bahawalnagar front. Besides him, Baba also recommended an award of Sitara-e-Jurat, for the young officer who survived grave risks to his life while firing away at the tanks. He was of Bengali origin and because of this some of the senior officers (General Rank) in General Headquarters, Rawalpindi, declined Baba's first recommendation. Baba had to go to great lengths to finally have the young officer decorated with a Sitara-e-Juraat. He was like a lost soldier, who finally opted to leave for his country, Bangladesh. When Baba went to see him off at the Bahawalnagar railway station, they embraced other and broke down like father and son.

After some initial criticism of some of his actions, Baba was awarded one of the two Best War Performance Reports covering the war. The other report covered the performance of Major General (late) Janjua. He died in action during the 1971 war, in the Kashmir sector. Baba died while serving as Major General, in 1978. He was commanding a Division in Bahawalpur (another big city in Punjab, Pakistan).

The two reports were made a part of the curriculum of the Pakistan Army War College, Rawalpindi, where promising senior officers of the army and civil, receive higher training. Baba had attended this course when in 1969, it was held for the first time in Quetta, Pakistan.

I had the privilege of visiting Bahawalnagar front after the war, seeing the dunes in the distance, and spending a few nights with Baba in his Brigade Camp headquarters.



59. PA 2758 (GC-243) Maj Sardar Mohammad Hussain Shikoh

Sardar Mohammad Hussain Shikoh S/O Sardar Ali Panahi was born on 1.3.1926. He belonged to Nichari Mohammad Hassan Road, Quetta. On Commissioning he joined Pathan Regiment.



60. GC-176 R. V. Gibbs S/O Captain R. V. Gibbs Was born on 7.6.1926. He was Resident of E. C. Harrison Police Lines, Peshawar. He was the only British Cadet at PMA. He left for Training to U.K., but did not return.

61. GC_180 Syed A.Hassan Zahid S/O Syed Ahmaad Hassan was born on 18.7.1929. He was Resident of 192, The Mall, Rawalpindi. He was relegated and got his Commission with the 2nd PMA, Long Course and got his commission in Baluch Regiment.



62. GC-184 Mohammad Daud Khan S/O K.S. Mohammad Bostan Khan was born on 5.6.1926. He belonged to Village Lunda Pairan, Tehsil Manshera, and Hazara. He resigned on 26.9.1949.



63. GC-198 Akhtar Siddiqi S/O Zia-ul- Hassan was born on 18.12.1926. He belonged to Naqqarch Bakhal, Ujjain, Central India. He migrated from India and was selected for 1st PMA Long Course and joined PMA, Kakul. He was relegated.



64. GC_221 Raja Rab Nawaz Khan S/O Raja Umar Das Khan was born on 9.11.1928. He belonged to Jaranwala, Lyallpur. He resigned on 29.3.1949.

65. GC-223 S.H.Kuli Khan S/O A.F.H. Zahid was born on 7.4.1929. He belonged to Ganj Bazaar, Peshawar. He was withdrawn on 5.11.1948.



66. GC-224 Agha Aman Shah S/O Agha Sardar Shah was born on 5.11.1928. He belonged to Arbab Kareni Road, Quetta. He was relegated, He Later became Vice-Chancellor, Quetta University.



67. GC-232 Nisar Mohammad S/O Wali Mohammad Khan was born on 6.6.1926. He belonged to Umarzai, Peshawar. He was relegated.



68. GC-234 Safi Ullah Khan S/O Risaldar Dilawar Khan was born on 28.5.1926. He belonged to Kachzai, Bannu. He was relegated.



69. GC-237 Gul Zaman Babar S/O Khan Zaman Khan was born on 1.4.1928. He belonged to Village Pirpai, Nowshera. He was withdrawn on 19.8.1949.



70. GC-241 M.A. Khattak S/O K.S. Major Mohammad Zarin was born in kakul on 13.6.1926. He belonged to Village Ghazi Hakim Khan, Pabbi. He was relegated On 18.10.1949.



71. GC-244 Major Hamid Ali Noon S/O Major Sardar Khan Noon was born on 29.11.1929. He belonged to Village Sardar Pur Nur, Sargogha. He was relegated and passed out with 2nd PMA Long Course. He later resigned.



72. GC-245 Izzat Hayat Khan S/O (Late) Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan was born on 16.8.1929 He belonged to Village Wah, R.S.D. Attock. He was dismissed from PMA, Kakul, on 15.9.1948. He was the first Cadet to be drummed out from PMA, Kakul.



73. GC-253 Saif-ur-Rahman S/O H.H. Muzzafarul Mulk was born on 29.9.1928. He belonged to Chitral, Chitral State. After the death of his father he was installed Mehtar of Chitral and withdrawn from PMA, Kakul on 25.9.1948.

74. GC-256 Mohammad Jalal-d-Din S/o Qamar-ud-Din was born on 19. 10. 1926. He belonged to Village Qamar Ali, Bareilly, India. He failed to report to PMA, Kakul.



75. GC-284 Wahid-ud-Din Arshad S/O A. D. Arshad was born On 2.3.1926. His home address was C/O D. C. Jhelum. He left for training to U.K. He joined P.E.M.E.



76. GC-286 Munnawar Ahmad S/O Abdullah Khan was born on 10.7.1928. His address was C/O Superintendent I.A.V.C. Deowal Road, Quetta. He joined P.E.M.E. Left for training to U.K.

CHAPTER 11

Annual Get Together 1st PMA Long Course



Standing L to R Fazli Raheem, Moin, Saadat, Aklhtar, Asif, Raza, Naeem, Iqbq Mehdi, Azhar, Bokhari, Qazi, Mahmud, Abdullah, Safdar, Jehandad, Saeed, Kaleem, Bangash, Kreashie, Saleh, Faqir
Sitting Ijaz, Anwar



Bangash, Mahmud, Faqir, Kaleem



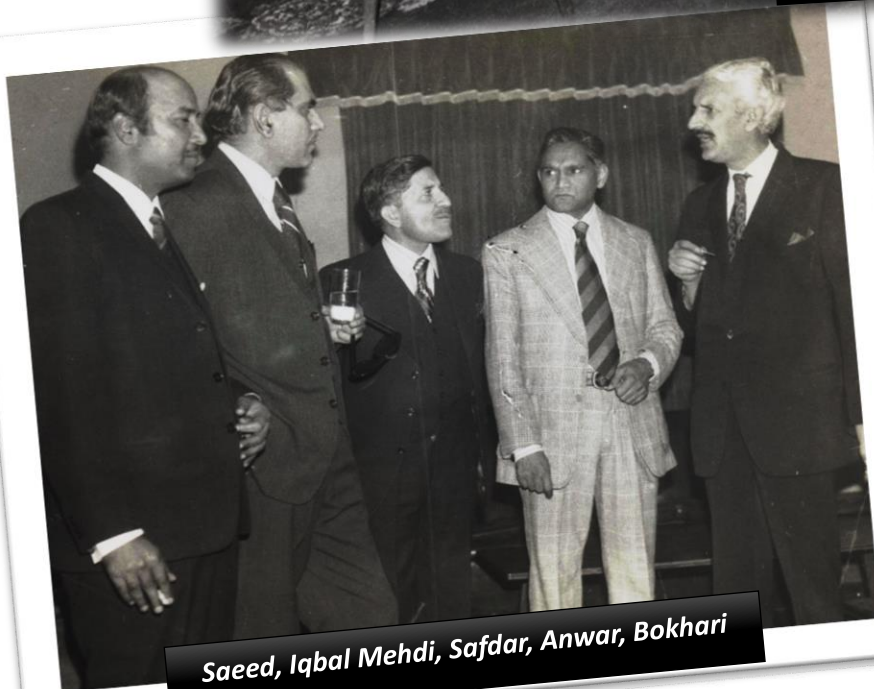
Naeem, Saeed, Saadat, Mahmud



Anwar, Kaleem, Jehandad, Saadat, Ijaz



Faqir, Bangash, Naeem, Azhar



Saeed, Iqbal Mehdi, Safdar, Anwar, Bokhari



Kaleem, Faqir, Ijaz, Jehandad, Iqbal Mehdi, Bokhari, Abdullah



Iqbal Mehdi, Jehandad, Mahmud, Akhtar, Ijaz



Qazi, Fazli Raheem, Iqbal Mehdi, Akhtar, Mahmud, Saeed

CHAPTER 12

SUMMING UP OF THE COURSE

The most remarkable feature of the Course is the innate qualities of high moral principles are displayed through truthful, honest, and frank expression of our views, without any inhibitions, always speaking the truth. In the way of honesty, we can take pride in the fact that despite holding very key and important appointments in our careers, there is no stigma of any corruption. Professionally, we laid the highest principles of always leading our troops from up in front. The examples of Raja Aziz Bhatti and Brig Muhammad Ahmad may be cited out of the many others, as outstanding. Major Bhatti in 1965 was elected to stay with his forward platoon, which was holding the positions across the BRB on the Indian side rather than to be with the two Platoons holding positions on the home bank of BRB Canal. He stood there leading them from up in front and repulsed several attacks of the enemy, despite all the numerical superiority of their strength, and the other tanks and Artillery support available. It was a remarkable display of bravery. Major Muhammad Ahmad was Commanding B Squadron of 25 Cavalry when his Squadron was rushed to Chawinda to stem the stride of the attacking Indian Armoured Division on 8th September. When he arrived at Chawinda, he formed his squadron into line abreast formation and came out of Chawinda with all his 14 Tanks to his right and left and him himself leading them in his tank. The approaching 1 Armoured Division of the enemy was attacking with two Regiments, 16 Cavalry and 17 Horse, with the rest in reserve. Seeing the enormous strength of the enemy tanks in front of him, he still decided to attack them rather than fight a defensive battle. In the furious and exemplary attack, he was right in front and engaging and destroying the enemy tanks by firing his tank guns himself. This flustered the attacking Indian Armour and they started to retreat. Later when the rest of the 25 Cavalry Regiment arrived, they kept attacking the enemy formations and by the evening they pushed this huge Juggernaut of 1 Armoured Division supported by 3 Infantry Divisions, back to from where they had debouched in the early hours of the morning. In the whole day's intense battle, they inflicted heavy casualties on their armoured units. And they did all by themselves, with no other support. There is no other parallel example in the Annals of the entire Military History. This was our proudest moment; for 25 Cavalry, 1st PMA Long Course, Army and the Country, all alike.

We also can with great pride cite the many incidents of how our colleagues expressed their honest opinions fearlessly in front of the Military Dictators, even much to their dislike, and earned their wrath. Examples of Abdullah Malik, Babar and Muzaffar Malik can be mentioned, amongst the many other, to illustrate the point. They did this at the cost of some going to jail and others even at the stake of their brilliant careers. One can go on and on. The main purpose of highlighting all this was to illustrate the exemplary straits of our course, which are unique and exemplary. The traditions left behind them are a model for others to follow. The standards set need to be maintained. It is most satisfying that out of all the personified traditions set, at least the one of leading the troops from up in front is still distinctly visible in current generation of young officers. It is most gratifying!

While reviewing the overall performance of our Course, the two Engineer Officers of our Course, namely Lt Gen Safdar Butt and Lt Gen Agha Saadat Ali, had the distinction to be the first Engineer Officers to rise to this rank in the Army.

The other two officers of our course who rose to the rank of three star Generals, are Jehan Dad Khan and Ahmad Kamal. They both earned these ranks through a lot of diligence, hard work and meticulous conduct.

In the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Jehan Dad served as the Military Secretary to Nawab of Kala Bagh, when he was the Governor of Punjab. He has many tales to tell of that period, but he shares these in only small and selective groups. He has also written a very thought-provoking auto-biography. It reveals some interesting accounts. One may not agree entirely with some of these; it reflects his own views and perceptions. We respect that. But to his credit he is the only one from our course who has achieved this distinction. Some others who had equally very intimate and close contacts at Centre of power have not ventured to write. That has left some wide gaps in the recording of our history. Mahmud has now recently written a book titled, "My Reflection in Passion", and thus is an added landmark.

But where Lieutenant General Jehan Dad Khan, stands unique is his life time work with totally devoted and committed sense of purpose, is the chain of his Al-Shifa eye hospitals. Needless to say that he geared a lot of support from the successive Governments and the philanthropists, both within the country and all over the world. His this most exclusive contribution is another shining and admirable performance in the history of our course and also that of the country. Though jokingly, some of his course mates describe him as the political weather cock; but that was his compulsion. He will be remembered for his this unique contribution.

If we have to in summation, mention the towering personalities of our Course, the two names that are outstanding are undoubtedly Major Raja Aziz Bhatti and Major General Nasir Ullah Khan Babar. Raja Aziz Bhatti had a short period of Service and that too confined to his Army Service. But even in this short span of his life, he lived the life of an idealist soldier; by winning both the Sword of Honour and Norman Gold Medal at PMA, and culminated it in the glory of being the only recipient Of the Award of Nishan-e-Haider in 1965 War. Is it not unique and most distinctive! There is no other parallel example in the entire History of this Army. Babar too stands out as an example all by himself, the bravest of the soldiers with Sitara-e-Juraat and Bar and added to it being the recipient of Hilal-e-Shujaat, for saving the lives of many students kept hostage in the Afghan Embassy, and that too at the Peril of his life. His shining and exemplary contribution does not end there. What makes him most endearing is that he lived his entire life, even right to the end of his life, in all glory carving a name for himself for his luminary, visionary and most momentous contribution in the cause of this country. The most illustrious being how he devolved a close relationship with both Mullah Omar and his dissidents of Northern Alliance, with them all reposing their full confidence in him. There is no other example worthy of mentioning in the same light and the uniqueness that he displayed! Our Course must place on record these two names, who are the beacon of light for everyone, and they merit a name for themselves in the History of this Country. They do our Course equal Proud.

We have written whatever we could remember and reproduced the write ups that we received. There may be other accounts worth recording and which remain unsung heroes; but we can cloud them only under somewhat lame excuse of failing memories and the twilight years of our life.

But what stands out without any fear of contradiction is the integrity displayed by all and everyone. Despite holding the most important, sensitive and the key positions there is no blur or even a semblance of stigma against the name of any of our course mates. It is a tribute and a distinction for us all collectively and individually. We truly can also take pride in that.

While reflecting back on our course, the best summing up and the main purpose of recording all the above details was to highlight some of the key and important role the graduates of 1st PMA Long Course played, both in war and in peace. There could be many other examples quoted, but they may not appear to be that significant and spectacular from the reader's point of view.

Nevertheless, what emerges is the character of the course. There were many whose deeds and accomplishments have not found a mention, but it is because we did not get their accounts; nevertheless they remain endeared in our hearts and minds. They all are a matter of honour for all of us. Collectively they all make towards the performance of the course. What stands out is that by examples of our personal sacrifices, both in personal lives and careers, coupled with the standards of moral principles in our acts and deeds, the dignity of conduct and our total commitment to the cause of the Army and above all the country; they all leave behind a very distinct imprint of our identity. All these are the symbols and recognitions befitting the pioneers of the Pakistan Military Academy. May the posterity and the History remember us in that light and vein.

The Post Retirement Period: After our retirement from the Army, we all kept working in our own ways and pursuing our own and family interest. From our course Babar was the most active amongst us and kept playing his full role even till the end of his life. No tribute can do justice to the yeoman services rendered by him in the cause of the Country, this Army and even in recognition of our course as a true role model and the Pioneers of PMA, Kakul. He has been hampered by his sickness, but we all pray and hope that he will Insha Allah, recover fully and start playing his active role as before. Unfortunately, he did not recover and passed away on 10 January 2011, leaving a trail of glory and dignity behind him.

The significant part is that even in retirement; we kept our intimacy as a course and have been religiously holding our annual course re-unions. Thanks to Safdar, when he was alive and was the Chairman WAPDA, he arranged some excellent and most enjoyable re-union functions at Tarbela. We will remember him for that and also for his many other qualities of head and heart.

We clearly showed our will and resolve. This happily was maintained throughout the rest of our Army career. We had developed our identity, had a clear mind of our own and would give our views fearlessly without reservations or ambiguity. Above all we stood for the glory and the bright future for this Country and the Army. We lived our lives with these thoughts and acted in our performance on these dictates; even at the peril of our lives and also at the stake of our careers. This was to become the hall mark of the course. It was shown and displayed by most of us throughout our career. Diverse in mind, but unified in our soul, was the distinction that we earned and persevered.

The Growth of Army Aviation

Captain Mahmud was the first among the 1st PMA Long Course to join the No 1 Air O.P Flight, as it was named then, in 1951. It grew into Army Aviation and later became an arm of the Army. Captain Zafar and Captain Babar joined him a year later. It is most satisfying that they all three played a key role in the growth of Army Aviation and it becoming one of the most important arms of the Army. The First Air O.P. Flight started with five Auster Observation Aircraft, inherited as the share at the time of partition, but has now blossomed into full-fledged fighting Arm.



Auster-5 Aircraft Approaching to Land on an ALG





Major General Azhar Ali Syed. Our Course Coordinator

Major General Azhar who has been our Course coordinator from the inception of when this Association was formed. He has performed this thankless job most devotedly and with dexterity. He has kept all the records meticulously, in all their details and most immaculately; in the form of News Letters and all the photographs of the Annual Re-unions. We owe a special thanks of gratitude to him for his untiring and devoted efforts to organize and hold the re-unions regularly every year and also keeping all his Course Mates apprised of all the activities through his regular News Letters. Through these News Letters he has taken a lot of pains to keep all his course mates updated and informed of all the activities and occasions that have significance and relevance to us. It is a thankless job and he has shown a lot of patience to coolly and calmly handle all these. For these qualities, he was unanimously picked to hold this position for life. He has been threatening to leave this off and on, but our Old RSM, Late Hamid Hussain Shigri, always kept him on track. We all told him that he remains the Course Co-coordinator for the rest of his life. May his spirits keep guiding Azhar to fulfill this task assigned

to him for his full tenure fixed? Unfortunately, he had a stroke lately and is now lying paralyzed in bed. We hope and pray that he fully recovers soon so that he continues to perform his duties as assigned to him. He could not recover and finally expired 9th April 2023. His burial was held on 10th April 2023. It was so ordained by God Almighty, and we have been deprived of our most valuable asset of Course Coordinator and a great friend to all. The duties are now being handled by our next generation through Omar Saeed Malik. He made all the arrangements for his burial and coordinated with all to make those befitting for him. Some pictures of his burial are placed below:-





CHAPTER 13

THE NEWS LETTERS

NEWS LETTER

45TH GET-TOGETHER 1ST PMA LONG COURSE

During the preliminary discussion held towards the end of December '94 for finalising the programme of 45th get-together, it was suggested that we should make efforts to get the coursemates, residing in Karachi to join us this time. The only way it could be possible, was arranging air-lift by C-130 aircraft. Mian Mehmood broached the subject with the Vice Chief of Air Staff on the golf-course, and I followed it up in writing. On the advice of Zafar Hashmat, return passage for six was arranged. The Vice Air Chief cautioned me that on a previous occasion Gen Shamim Alam was unable to utilise the seats and this was conveyed to Zafar Hashmat. Shigri and myself, in two separate cars reached Chaklala Air-base to find that only Zafar Hashmat and Mehmooduz Zaman had come. This was a bit of a disappointment. I only wish, a few more could have come !

Another problem nagging my mind was, as to how we should get Jilani to join us ? His latest letter conveyed a 'message' that he would very much like to be amongst us for the occasion. Consequently I rang up Babar and was fortunate enough to be able to speak to him. I asked him, if some vehicle could pick up Jilani from his Village and bring him to Rawalpindi ? Babar responded readily to advise me, that at his expense, Jilani and family should travel by PIA from Bahawalpur to Rawalpindi and back. Now, this was very generous of Babar. He said that Mian Mehmood's vehicle from Kabirwala could pick them up from their village to bring them to Bahawalpur Airport. Mian Sahib agreed, which was very kind of him.

Thus we had the pleasure of Jilani and family joining us for the 45th reunion. They are back home safely. Thanks to Babar and Mian Mehmood.

Luqman Mehmood, I met last in early December at Aziz Alam's house in Karachi. Enjoying a sumptuous cup of tea, I learnt that Luqman visits Islamabad off and on. His brother-in-law heads the Faisal Bank and Luqman stays with him whenever he travels up north. Zafar Hashmat was expecting Luqman to be on board the C-130, but apparently the urge to join the course-mates was not strong enough to make him undertake the arduous journey. Initially he was very sure of coming but as it turned out he could not make it for some reason ? Well Luqman, we missed you and hope you will be amongst us next time.

Malik Sharif is not well at all. Saeed Malik had met him in Lahore and informed us during the Dec '94 meeting that Malik Sharif had successfully treated his diabetes taking 'Methra Seeds' soaked in water. But later in January I found out that he had been hospitalised for the same problem. I was told that his kidney function was also adversely affected. Let us all pray for his recovery and may Allah grant him good health. I asked C.M. Anwer also to look him up, which he did. He told me that Malik Sharif was to be discharged from hospital in a few days. He was discharged around 7th of Feb and while talking to him at his house, I learnt that he had gone very weak and has difficulty in moving around. May God help him !

-:2:-

I was still in London. But he was in Islamabad when I returned. On couple of occasions we met. He looks absolutely fine and follows his routine. He returned in Dec to be in time to start his winter vacations which he enjoys, perhaps in France. I talked to him end Jan but found that he had no plans to visit Pakistan in early Feb.

The great Faqira acknowledged my circular of 31 Dec 94 saying "I along with (possibly) my wife will make an effort to attend". He sent the cheque of contribution also but for some reason did not turn up. This is not normal with him, for he invariably attends. Lahore is not very far either. Well we certainly missed the young couple and hope Faqira will be in town one of these days to say Hello?

News of the half century is, that Col Akram attended the get-together with his son-in-law, Tuhab. A few months back Tuhab going past my office saw my name board and dropped-in together with Akram. There was a problem of young fellow's posting. Any how, there after Akram has been visiting my office whenever he comes to Rawalpindi. In one of the meetings Shigri found Akram in my office. Shigri asked Akram if he remembered Bangash? Akram very innocently gave reference of the place where Bangash lived. Unlucky for Akram, that he did not know about the passing away of Jahanzeb Bangash. That was just enough for Shigri to blow up. He really cornered Akram for not taking interest in his course-mates. The dose Shigri gave him, was of such an imperial magnitude that Akram had no answer. Thereafter Akram pledged that he would turn up for these get-togethers, regularly and every year. I hope the problem of Tuhab is solved? At least that is the impression he gave me, after talking to Babar. It was really great having Akram with us for the first time. It was gratifying to learn that he is the editor of a paper published from Peshawar. There is no dirth of talent in our course, the great 1st PMA!

This time I did not hear at all from Gul Hayat who promptly attended the last get together. He did not acknowledge the circular nor did he express a word about attending or otherwise. I hope all is well with him and he acknowledges this newsletter to convey his welfare. I would like him to visit Malik Sharif and drop me a line on his state of health. Please do that, will you?

Abdullah Malik attended with his lady wife and Kamal his only child. He is very regular despite being forgetful! His son is in business and "mashaallah" doing well. His house in Islamabad is under extensive renovation. He is adding some rooms also. For almost a year now, he has been busy with the house. We look forward to a house warming after completion, in not too distant a future.

Ahmed Jamal and his wife were very much there. Jamal looked well by the Grace of God, and was pretty active. He enquired if someone had brought a (still) Camera. But unfortunately not. I had intended to take a couple of the occasion. Just

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fact that I sent him a copy of the DO letter addressed to the Vice Chief of Air Staff which clearly stipulated my request for free lift both ways. Air movements at Karachi base naturally could not confirm the return seats which was the responsibility of Chaklala base. Any how, we were not lucky enough to have the company of Yusuf Ali. May be it would be possible next time?

Sardar was very much there but alone. He was wearing a smart 3 piece suit, very typical of diplomatic corps. We enjoyed the company of Ambassador (R) Sardar Ahmed and were happy that he was able to join. He came again at noon time on 6th Feb to take Jilani and family out. Jilani was in my office waiting to hear if Sardar had come. He had left a slip with his wife with my telephone on it. Zafar Hashmat kept chatting with Sardar in the hope that Jilani would return soon from my office, where he had to collect his Air Tickets which Babar had very kindly got changed for return journey a day later. In the end Jilani was provided a car and driver at about 1300 hrs for shopping and he returned at 1600 hrs.

Agha Saadat Ali was present with his lady wife. Since the room for having dinner was rather small we had to spread out in two or three places. This to some extent came in the way of closer contact with all participants. We hope to get the big hall next time which unfortunately was under renovation.

Mian Fazal ur Raheem visited my office a few days earlier and paid the contribution promptly. We were looking forward to the couple joining us but unfortunately due to the death of a dear one, Mian Sahib had to drive to Attock. By the time he finished with the burial etc it was too late to join the party. It is a pleasure to be in Mian Sahib's company for he is well read and a knowledgeable person. I hope he visits my office some time at his own convenience.

Shigri is one person, I have found, who loves his coursemates. He is always a volunteer to help out. Ever willing to spare his time & transport for the benefit of anyone of us. He is sincere to the core of his heart. When we were to go to Chaklala air base to meet the C-130 from Karachi, he insisted on two cars going there for the comfort of our course-mates. As it turned out, he had to drive Mahmuduz Zaman Hamid to satellite town and I brought Zafar Hashmat along. He has always advocated for contributions to raise a fund for 1st PMA course. A good idea, for money can always be handy to help out any one in need. But others do not seem to agree? The contribution under the existing system only caters for the cost of the reunion function and that is all. Shigri is not playing golf these days. He is completely out of form and dreads stepping on the Golf course. He says that old age is catching up with him but I don't buy that! He was kind again to drop Jilani and family to the airport for their return journey to the village and bought them confectionery to carry along. A very good gesture, well appreciated by Jilani & family. Shigri has the singular distinction of inviting Jilani and family for a meal at his house. Well done Shigri!

Jahandad the President of Al-Shifa Trust has done a marvellous job in establishing the most well equipped

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for the occasion. He spoke to me the next day explaining the Ramzan routine which kept him away from us. We wish him all the luck for the noble humanitarian service he is rendering. May he achieve greater successes! We are rightly proud of him, and admire him for the missionary zeal and dedication with which he is working. He has no political ambitions - at least for the present!

Muzaffar Malik is in Lahore. He visits Rawalpindi some time. We have the same tailor for stitching clothes and once I ran into him at the tailor's shop. He was kind enough to drop me back in his car because I had walked over. He sounds well, and braving courageously with whatever problem he has. Last I spoke to him was just before the reunion. He told me that if he feels upto it he may travel to Pindi. But apparently the mood was otherwise and all of us, missed him. We hope to see him next time, God willing.

Mufti Wajahat Hassain was to join us for a cup of tea at Aziz Alam's house. He did not turn up. Later we learnt that he and his wife while coming, ran into some sort of firing. It was a common thing to happen in Karachi early Dec last. So we missed him. He spoke to me subsequently. Later he was expected to avail of the C-130 lift but he could not do so because of the indisposition of his lady wife. We hope she has recovered since and is fit and fine. We wish the young couple a very good health and look forward to seeing them in the next reunion.

Nasir Ullah Babar despite his very heavy schedule of work and commitments was amongst us with his lady wife. It appears that he has put on some weight due to lack of exercise, for which he gets no time. He is in office promptly at 0800 hrs, on working days and perhaps is available to talk to for an hour or so. Thereafter one can try and if lucky you may catch him some where in a meeting or in the national assembly. It was a great gesture on the part of Bob to get Jilani over for the reunion together with his family. We are grateful to him for the help rendered. Some of us got around him during the dinner and asked all sorts of questions. He very patiently answered every one. We wish him all the success, in this very thankless job and look forward to seeing him amongst us again, sooner than later. I have found Babar to be very helpful to all the course-mates as long as the request is legitimate. He is down to earth and absolutely informal. I have talked to him only on few occasions. It is gratifying to have some one you know, who is in a position to help and does not withhold his assistance. We wish him well and God Speed.

I never heard anything from Hayatullah. I called his residence number to enquire about his welfare because he did not respond to the circular for the get-together. Now this is most unusual. He has been a very regular participant of these reunions. He had always acknowledged my circulars in the past. What went wrong this time I wonder! Hope, he will write back when he receives this news letter and convey his welfare. Best of luck to him in the meantime.

So is his dear daughter who does not live too far away from their house. Third son at Lahore, again having a good job, is yet to be married. But it is upto the boy; when he is ready. Zafar Hashmat is planning to spend Eid with his mother. He and his wife are likely to get a visit visa to India and then they would fly out via Lahore. We wish them a happy Eid together with his mother.

Safdar But has been to states to be with his wife who had proceeded earlier for some medical treatment. I spoke to him in the USA to inquire about the health of his wife and was happy to know that she was up and about and busy with her shopping activities. He returned on 12th of Feb and his wife will follow later, together with their son Imran. We missed them both very much over the reunion and look forward to seeing him when he visits Islamabad next. He has set up some industry in Lahore. Perhaps manufacturing some aluminium alloy, I really don't know. I will ask him next when we meet. We wish his lady wife good health. May Dr Safdar flourish in his industrial ventures. All the best to him and his wife.

There is no news of Ayaz Khan Wazir. He attended the last gettogether which was a lunch at Saeed Malik's house. He did not acknowledge the circular. Hopefully all is well with him. May be he would write to intimate his welfare when he gets this news letter?

Dildar Rana was spoken to by C M Anwer urging him to join the reunion. He has not written to me for a long time now, why, I do not know. Perhaps too busy with his golf. I would greatly appreciate if he can spare the time to drop a line.

Mir Abdul Naeem with his lady wife travelled from Lahore to attend the reunion. It was very nice of the two of them. We were all happy to see them amongst us. He is still the chief executive of Wyeth Laboratories, a prestigious job. That he came only to attend the reunion was indeed great. At least he is one gentleman who finds it worth the trouble! Our best wishes to him in his job and we hope to see both of them with us next time.

Kaleem Mirza responded promptly to my circular. He was with us together with his two daughters. It was lovely to have them. It was a relief to learn that his eyes do not trouble him any more. Thank God for that. He is pursuing his profession of marketing gem stones. One of these days when I have enough money I will perhaps visit him to pick up a stone. In the mean-time we wish him and the children best of luck.

Muin Faruqui was very much there with his lady wife. I did not have a chance to speak to him during the gettogether but he very kindly drops in now and again in my office. He has already started construction of a house in Chaklala III where he is planning to settle down. His daughter is in Islamabad whom he visits frequently. Yasmin keeps herself busy in social welfare activities. From about a year from now we should be attending a house warming party in a brand new house of 1995 model.

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House building is his present occupation and he is busy all the time. Good luck to them.

Saleh attended with his lady wife. He looked well and we presume that he is in good health. Apparently he has no other activity that I know of, and Saleh is enjoying a retired life. We wish him good health.

Zair Hussain was contacted by Zafar Hashmat. He could not leave Karachi due to the sickness of a close relative. All is well with him. He wrote to me regretting that he would not be able to attend and desired that I convey his best wishes to all the course-mates participating in the 45th reunion and to even those who would not be able to attend. Well, thanks for your good wishes Zair, and we reciprocate the feelings expressed by you. Good luck to you.

Ijazud Din was there with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grand children. It was indeed a pleasure to see the family. I D these days has been given a task by me. That is to put together all the movies of our gettogethers. He is presently busy with editing them properly. Earlier movies have on them friends like Jahanzeb Bangash, Abdul Wadood Khan and Asif Ali, not with us anymore. God bless their souls. The grand movie when ready would be quite a historical record to watch. May be next time the programme will include watching the movie as well ? Only if all agree and we can spare the time. I have yet to hand over the brief movie of the 45th gettogether to Ijaazud Din Khan. Taking time he must be making a good job of it.

Raza the distinguished hockey player of PMA days, attended together with his wife, sons and daughters-in-law. It was a pleasure to have the whole family join us. He has been very regular and always appears for the reunion. In fact in acknowledgement of the circular he sent a cheque with details of the family members who would be attending the dinner. Now, that was very nice of him. We wish him and his children all the best.

Hassan Durrani was very kind to bring me that special 'GUR' from his village, rich in dry fruit. According to shigri even in PMA days Durro used to keep a good stock of dry fruit for his 'special' friends. But Shigri under the threat of checking those friends of Durro, always had access to his stocks of dry fruit. Hassan first announced that he would be coming alone for the reunion. But when I confirmed to his lady wife that it was a mixed function she readily agreed to join. But Durro in the end backed out on the plea of indisposition. I hope he is well now. It is a pleasure to have him in my office now and again, whenever he visits Suzuki Motor Coy next door or comes for medical reasons to AFIC. Well we missed Durro and his lady wife and hopefully expect that they will join us next time. All the best to Durro and his family in the meantime.

NTR, as far as S.M. Akhtar is concerned. He just resents joining the gettogethers of 1st PMA long Course. All other reunions he heartily enjoys ! Well, good luck to him.

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CHAPTER 14

THE LIVELY GET TOGETHER AT TARBELA DAM 8th FEBRUARY 1985

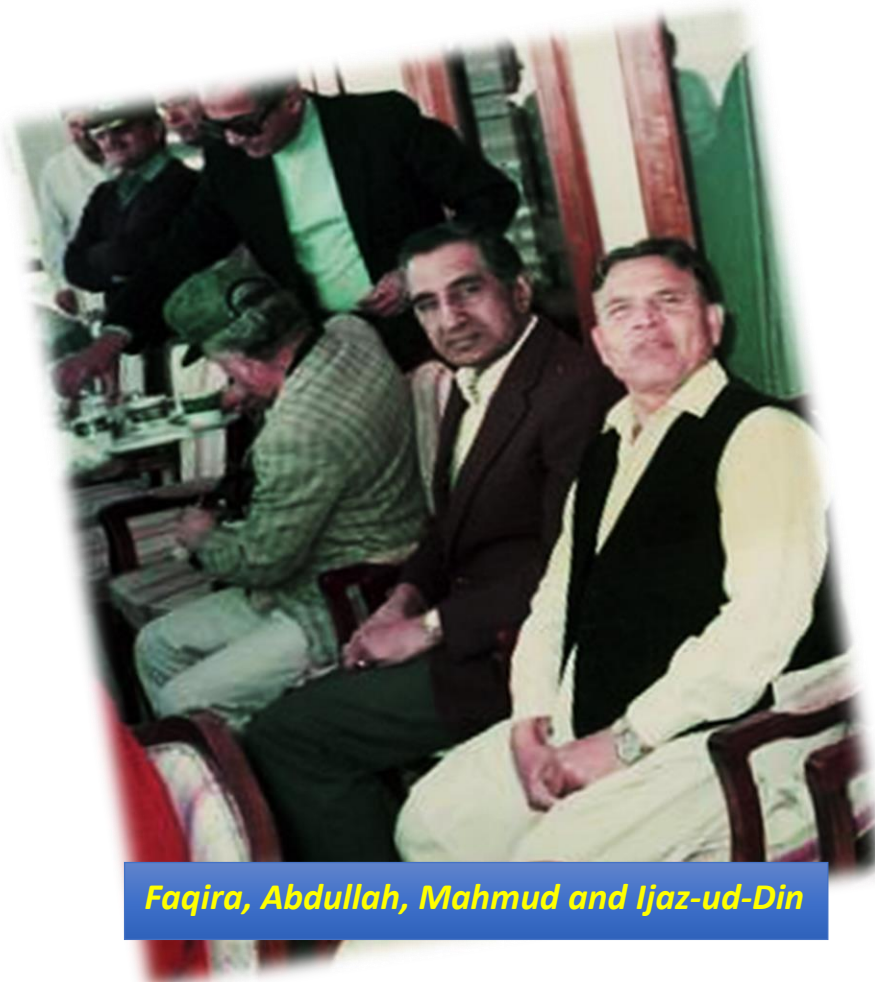
Safdar is giving a Briefing on Tarbela Dam



Faqira, Abdullah, Mahmud and Safdar



Safdar trying his hand at Golf



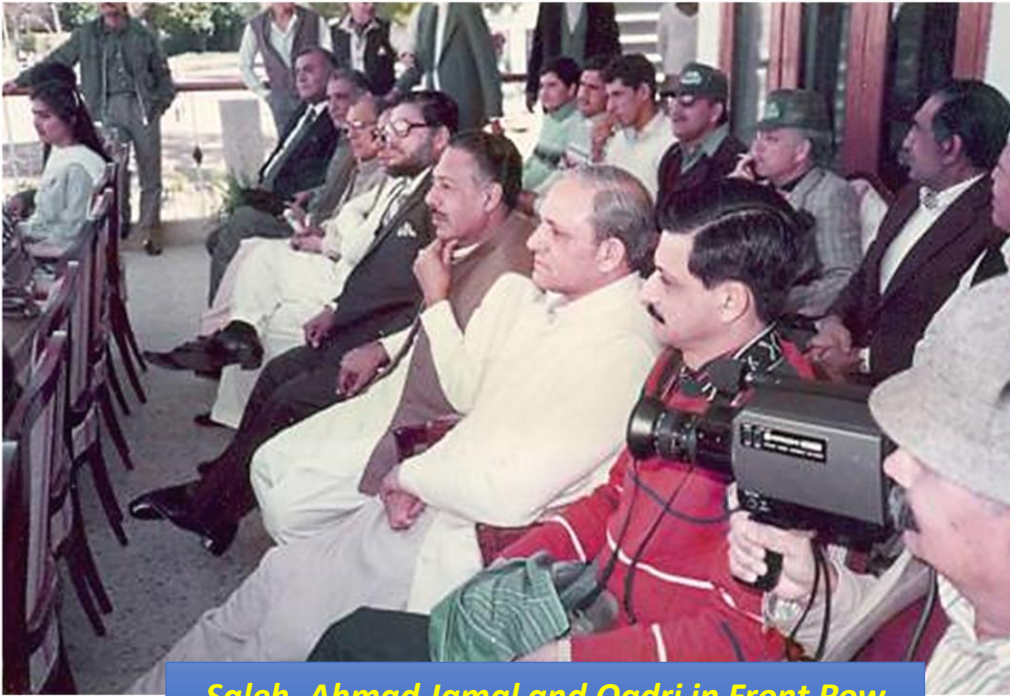
Faqira, Abdullah, Mahmud and Ijaz-ud-Din



Safdar, Saeed Malik and Ijaz-ud-Din



Zafar, Saeed, Faqira, Abdullah and Mahmud



*Saleh, Ahmad Jamal and Qadri in Front Row
Abdullah, Mahmud and Safdar in Second Row*



Faqira, Abdullah, Mahmud and Safdar



Safdar, Zafar, Zafar Hashmat and Qazi



Safdar Having a Look at the Tarbela Dam

The Ladies are Having Their Fling at Golf



Begum Ijaz-ud-Din Trying Her Hand in Golf



Saeeda Taking her Turn, Qazi is the Caddy for all



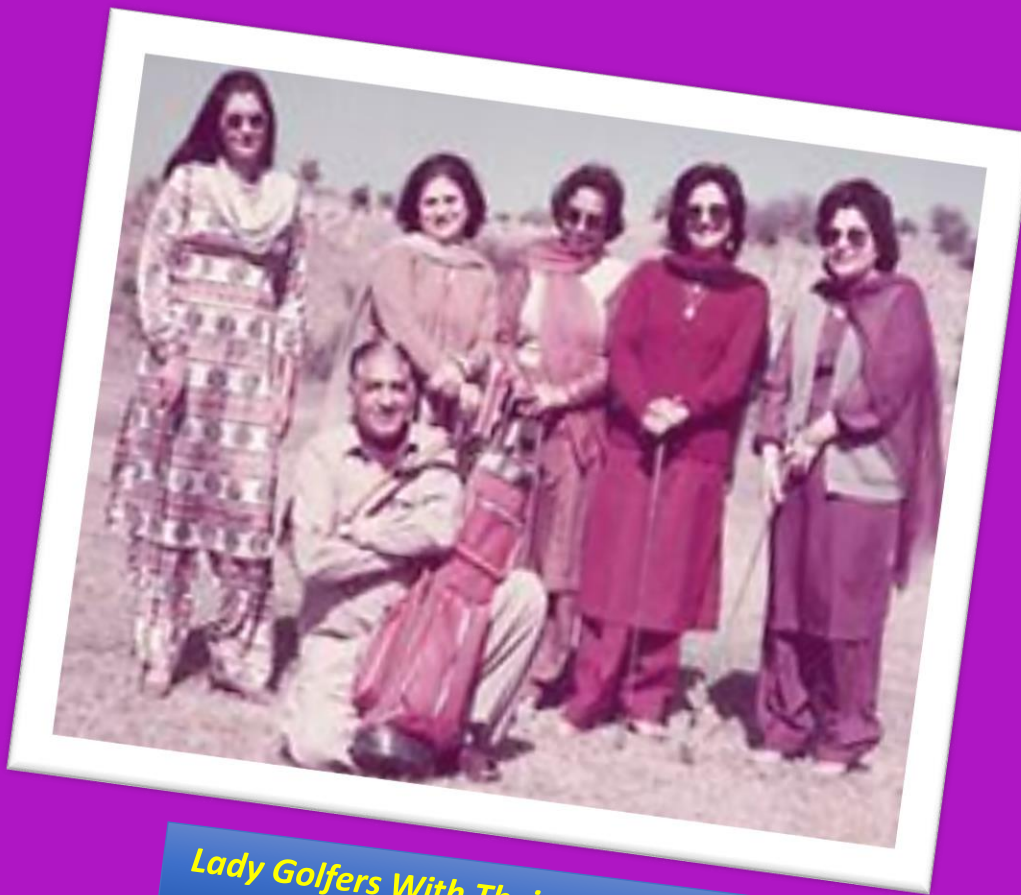
A Group Photo Graph of the Ladies, With Qazi and Qadri on their Flanks



Nasreen, Saeeda and Omera



Omera Mahmud is trying her skills at Golf



Lady Golfers With Their Caddy Qazi

NEWS LETTER46TH GET-TOGETHER 1ST PMA LONG COURSE

In accordance with the majority decision and in keeping with the 'spirit of democracy', a dinner was organised at the Golf Club Rawalpindi on 29th Feb'96 to observe the 46th reunion of the course. Surprisingly the attendance was good this time. PAF were requested to air-lift the course-mates residing in Karachi. Although six seats had been arranged for travel by C-130 AC; only two of our colleagues were able to avail it. The others, for one reason or the other could not make it. Yusaf Ali and Zafar Hashmat were all praise for the hospitality extended by the PAF. It was gratifying to learn that both were well looked after. Ofcourse I was in telephonic contact with both of them to ensure that no undue inconvenience was caused to our friends. PAF responded positively and enabled our friends from Karachi to be amongst us. Zafar Hashmat tried to persuade others but for valid reasons they had to stay back and we certainly missed them on this auspicious occasion. Our friends from Karachi returned by C-130.

One of the letters that I mailed to Luqman Mahmood, arrived back in post. So I reconfirmed Luqman's address from Aziz Alam before posting the intimation Dated 31st Dec'95 regarding the get-together. I also spoke to Luqman on telephone urging him to join us for the occasion. All he said was, that in case he decided to attend he would travel by PIA and would not avail the lift by C-130 AC. He travels to Islamabad not infrequently therefore I was hopeful of seeing him amongst us. But that did not happen. Otherwise he was quite cheerful and seems to be in good spirits. We certainly missed him.

I had proceeded to London in the middle of January and was with Zafar Khan most of the time. Abdullah who had at least twice postponed his departure for London arrived the day both Zafar and myself left for Paris. But luckily Safdar was there and made sure that Zafar's absence just for three days is not felt. With Zafar in London; anyone of us visiting feels at home and we have been enjoying his warm hospitality. May God bless him for looking after his friends. I would also like to thank him for the prompt payment in response to a letter written by Saadat. Zafar otherwise is fit and fine. He enjoys walking a lot, cooks his own meals, launders his clothes but after office hours. During office hours he attends office and hosts sumptuous lunches on week days to his friends visiting from Pakistan as well as those residing locally. Having remained in close company with Zafar I respect him for his conduct, intelligence and sound advice which is always objective and selfless. He visited Pakistan last March and was here for couple of weeks. I genuinely feel that in the exit

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of Zafar Khan the loser was certainly the army. As for himself he has done very well and God has been kind to him.

Faqira did not turn up this time. I understand that he performs Umra . during Ramazan practically every year. He wrote to me on Jan 6th saying - " God willing I would like to attend " - together with a cheque of Rs 150/-. Why he did not turn up I do not know? I spoke to his son at Lahore in end April to learn that Faqira had proceeded to Karachi for a few days.

Gul Hayat wrote to me on Feb 15 expressing the desire to attend the function, provided his accommodation was arranged in some Mess, and if he could be picked up for the dinner on 29th Feb. All that was done and I sent him a confirmatory telegram. Unfortunately he does not have a telephone at house and can only be contacted at Gymkhana Club Lahore where he is available in the Cardroom in the afternoons. One has to call the club telephone and then depend on the courtesy of the bearer who is asked to give the message. Not very convenient? Anyway Gul Hayat called me on the morning of 29th Feb, somewhere from Westridge. He came to GHQ Arty Mess(old club) in the evening where Zafar Hashmat was staying. Yusuf Ali was kind enough to bring both Zafar Hashmat and Gul Hayat to the dinner. Gul Hayat travelled back to Lahore immediately after the dinner. We are grateful to Gul Hayat for joining us on 29th Feb despite the fact that he was "short of money ". Hopefully we shall share his winnings at the cardroom of Lahore Gymkhana, one of these days, and his course-mates will remember him for the good gesture. He sure must be winning some days?

Abdullah lately has not been keeping very good health. Towards the end of last year while proceeding to his bank, he felt tightness in the chest. He was removed to AFIC. Again in January this year he was admitted in the hospital where they detected some coughing and decided to take chest Xrays. In the middle of January he decided to leave for London where he had some treatment to which he has by the Grace of God, responded very well. I happened to be in London and we met in Zafar's office on several occasions. There I learnt; that at Islamabad Airport he boarded the plane with the help of the hydraulic lift of the Ambulance. The very thought of it wrenched my heart! Abdullah to me has always been, a figure of man; who could with a punch knock out his opponent flat! When he returned in early march, Yusuf Ali, Shigri and myself went to the airport. I managed to reach the tarmac to see a glimpse of my friend who was looking fit and fine when the aircraft door opened. There were a number of relatives and friends hovering around Abdullah.

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It was good to have him back hale and hearty. His son (only child) Kamal's wedding was celebrated over four functions. Mehndi for ladies was a great entertainment. I understand about a thousand guests from both sides attended. Nikah was strictly a family affair. Baraat was received at Pearl Continental Rawalpindi and the crowd was big. Walima was held at Marriot Islamabad. A galaxy of Generals attended. I spotted at least five retired 4-star Generals and Tikka Khan was the senior most amongst them. The food served on the occasion was delicious and tasted absolutely fresh. Abdullah had been renovating his house on Margalla Road. He has made some additions also. His own den with writing desk a bridge table and a small library is a nice place to enjoy a drink. One day I accompanied Zafar, his brother Afzal Khan and Safdar Butt to his house. Home cooked dishes for lunch were a real treat after lavish drinks from Abdullah's bar. Safdar Butt could not help saying a prayer and we all join him in the 'DUA'; that may God Almighty in His infinite mercy grant Abdullah good health and spare him the time to enjoy living in the beautiful home and live to see his grand children. Amen. Best wishes to Abdullah and the newly weds, for a happy enjoyable life.

Ahmed Jamal did not attend the anniversary dinner. I spoke to him on telephone to learn that they were proceeding to Multan to stay with their son. Well the children's demands have to take precedence over this annual get together. We hope Jamals will be with us next year. He has not spoken to me for some time but I presume all is well with him. I have not seen him lately.

Yusuf Ali was with us after many many years. It was a pleasure to have him amongst us. He took the trouble of travelling by C-130 AC just to be with us. He was beaming with happiness on the tarmac of Chaklala airport where I went to receive them. He stayed in the NDFC guest house Islamabad, for about three weeks if I am not wrong. He had to sort out some personal matters. I remained in touch with him even after the reunion dinner. He was kind enough to present me some cigars during his visits to my office which provides a venue for meeting some of the coursemates. Shigri arranged a dinner at his house, in honour of Yusuf Ali and I was the privileged one to attend that. His Begum besides other dishes had made excellent pomfret which was delicious. Yusuf Ali had meetings with Abdullah, Saadat and some other friends. Though late in the day I discovered that Yusuf Ali is a man of rare qualities. There are very few people who are conscious of their own responsibilities towards others. I found him to be one of them. Like many others, soon after the dinner he realised that contribution of Rs 150/- per head was inadequate to meet the expense of the kind of dinner that was served. That ofcourse was absolutely right. Later he visited my office and paid me additional Rs 100 as contribution to clear the dinner bill. Not only that, he went a step

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ahead to discuss the matter with Saadat who promptly issued a letter. Again in response to that Yusuf Ali acted fast to make sure I receive the payment in cash. All these may be trivial matters but certainly made me feel that somebody was keen to share the financial burden. Yusuf Ali is a highly dignified person who has the right values of life and mind you, to the best of my knowledge he is not all that affluent like a few of our other friends. Greatness lies in realising responsibilities towards others and acting fast towards that end. No doubt Yusuf Ali has been selected to perform duties of honorary traffic magistrate for clarity of his thoughts and dispensing justice in a fair manner. He is a simple soul regular in his prayers without giving any impression of being a religious person. He is always relaxed and enjoys company being a good conversationalist. We hope he will make it for the anniversary dinner in years to come. Thanks Joe, you are a paragon of contentment.

Ambassador Retired Sardar was amongst us. He carries the polish of diplomats and is very soft spoken. If I am correct he is the main functionary of the Association of Retired Ambassadors who have frequent meetings and invite distinguished people for lectures etc. Besides he delivers lectures at the Academy for Foreign Service Trainees. A close friend of Jilani who was missed a lot by his absence. He too has acted fast in response to Saadat's letter for which I thanked him. Hope next time he is accompanied, for he attended the dinner alone, last time. I admire his positive response to any letter sent to him, which is replied pretty quickly. I believe Sardar and Saadat often meet for the morning walk.

Saadat Ali otherwise known as Agha Jan attended the dinner with his lady wife, daughter and son-in-law. He confirmed attendance of family members well in time together with a cheque for adequate amount. During summer of '95 we ran into each other in Zafar Khan's office for a few days. It was good fun indeed to chat together while the ladies were away looking for bargains. Saadat has always been appreciative of these get-togethers and has frequently complimented for the efforts put in for organising. I feel indebted to him for his very kind and generous feelings. It certainly is rewarding and may God bless him for that. He tells me that on prompting from Yusuf Ali they decided to issue a circular under Saadat's signatures. Thanks for their noble thoughts, together with your contribution Agha Jan.

Mian Fazle-Rahim confirmed attendance together with his son, a very well qualified lad who has been studying in the USA. Sure three of them turned up promptly, the credit for which goes to the son because Mian Sahib tends to forget

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things like my self. I have been urging Mian Sahib to find a bride for his boy and he has been at it. Mian Sahib has finally announced the engagement of his son with Dildar Rana's niece. This is a great news and congratulations Mian Sahib. Indeed Mian Sahib is a great organiser. We went together for offering condolences over Akram's death. We had a restful stop at the Punjab centre and through Mian Sahib's courtesy, we were provided a guide right upto the destination, which sure was a great help. Knowledgeable person as he is, one learns a lot in his company. With his vast experience in the army and the civil service and being a well read person, his opinion often is authentic and advice absolutely sound. He has, like myself the problem of hypertension. So we compare notes quite often. But having read so much, his knowledge of the subject is deep and as good as that of a consultant physician. He can advise you on various drugs, how they work and their side effects. What dosage should be taken and all the rest. He is in good health and we wish him well.

Shigri our RSM is great. He was the ardent supporter of having the dinner at Golf Club, without perhaps realising what it involved? The President of the Golf Club was kind enough to grant permission for holding this dinner and he deputed an officer to liaise with Shigri. Corps Comd had to be approached for obtaining his blessings for GHQ Arty Mess Staff to organise the dinner and provide the meal as per menu. Both Shigri and myself were horrified to learn from the PMC that outdoor catering was against their SOP. However, because the Corps Comd had okayed it, the PMC had no choice in the matter. A day before we learnt that the electricity of the Golf Club had been disconnected for non-payment of bills. Both of us were in a quandary. The golf club tried to console us that a generator would be placed at our disposal but I was worried because that would not have been good enough. I started chasing Maj Gen Askari of NLC, President Golf Club who finally went to the QMG. My requirement was power supply at least for 29 Feb. It was a great relief to hear from Gen Askari finally that power would be connected and thank God we had electricity for the dinner. Both Shigri and I had some anxious moments! Shigri is a very kind and hospitable person. He attended the dinner alone - why I do not quite understand? He is quite sentimental about his course-mates and likes to look after them. Whenever Jilani comes, not only that Shigri hosts a meal but also takes the family out for shopping buying gifts and clothing for the children. He has a big heart, proportionally even bigger than his body. Very sweet person as he is; his sugar shot up very high lately. His lady wife took him in time to the hospital, otherwise he would have collapsed. But now he is careful about his diet and drugs both and everything is alright with him. We wish him very good health and a very

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long life. He is always cheerful and a great company to be with. To see him in a jovial mood is a pleasure and his laughter is the elixir for hypertensive people like myself. He is an ardent advocate for raising some funds for the 1st PMA course, but his petitions have been falling on deaf ears. Shigri, please be careful with your diet and take regular exercise for we want you to be with us for many many years to come. In the end I must express my gratitude to Shigri for all his assistance provided in arranging the 46th anniversary dinner, and thank him for his generous contribution to settle the bills.

Jahandad acknowledged the invitation for 29th Feb and sent his contribution very promptly; but unfortunately he was unable to attend. He informed very kindly on telephone that because of some post-surgery complication, he had to proceed to London urgently for a check up. I enquired from Zafar Khan who gave me the heartening news that all was clear and the doctors had given a clean bill of health to J.D. It was good to see J.D. at the walima hosted by Abdullah. He looked a glowing picture of health and it was a pleasure to see him happy and smiling. Hope he makes it next time, for we would like every one to be present for this annual gathering. He continues the good work of service to humanity. AL-SHIFA TRUST EYE HOSPITAL is simply ticking like a Clock under J.D.'s care. We wish him well.

Muzaffar Khan Malik hosted a reception dinner for his nephew some time back in Marriot Hotel. It was a function arranged with the touch of perfection. I spoke to Muzaffar on telephone and he did mention his willingness to attend the 29th Feb dinner. But he was unable to make it. He has a problem which he is fighting bravely. But there are lean days when he does not feel too good but most of the time he is cheerful and abusing away left right and centre. I have been enquiring about his health on telephone. But he was in Islamabad in middle of April and never bothered to give a call. So what can we do to a devil like him? Normally I give him whatever news there is and suppose it is my duty to call and Muzaffar's privilege to respond or not! Okay Muz if that is what you like, so shall it be! We wish him good health and hope, he will join us for the next reunion. Together with his sister's family he is travelling abroad for a holiday in June.

Mufti Wajahat Hussain had to undergo an eye operation. That is the reason for him being unable to travel to Rawalpindi. But thank God he has recovered since and hopefully is in good health. Well Wajahat we hope you will be with us for the next get-together. He told me that his left eye is Okay now, and right eye is improving, which is a good news.

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Nasirullah Babar, was one of the first ones to confirm attendance and paid his contribution promptly. The only thing is that first he went to old Pindi Club and then finally made it to the Golf Club. For Babar to attend the dinner with the pressure of work that he is under and the responsibility that he carries is indeed admirable. I was amused over Babar's firm advice;"put it back in pocket;" when Pir Abid took out his 'TASBEEH!' Babar is Masha Allah in good health except that he has put on some weight. perhaps he cannot spare the time for exercise which at our age is more important than the food. He was very jovial all evening and was pleasantly mixing freely with every one. Babar always has time for listening to the problems of his course-mates and does his best to solve them. He has all the time for such requests and may God bless him for that. We wish him all the success in his portfolio.

Hayatullah has been very regular in attending the annual functions. He wrote a very nice letter explaining how keen they were to attend the reunion dinner but the couple were unable to make it due to "very urgent domestic reasons." He fully agreed with the majority decision of holding the dinner after Ramazan, for he has to travel 300 miles by road which certainly is not convenient during the month of Ramazan. The family are otherwise fine and we wish them well. We hope Hayatullah & family will be with us for the next reunion.

Aziz Alam was unable to attend the reunion dinner due to the reason that his daughter with children had arrived from the USA for a short stay at Karachi, in those days. He wrote to me on Jan 7th and also sent his contribution. Aziz Alam's hands have a slight tremor and this is apparent from his writing. He thinks we all are getting ancient but that is not the case. I hope he consults a competent doctor during one of his visits to the states to get advice on this complaint. I am not sure but perhaps it is curable and some answer can be found. I hope to see him in Karachi next September provided he is in the town. We definitely missed you Aziz Alam and your Begum. Hopefully you will make it next year.

Mohammed Ahmed wrote a nice letter acknowledging the circular for the reunion dinner. He regretted his inability to join us for the occasion. There was a rumour that Ahmed's are to settle in Rawalpindi and make a house in Chaklala-III. But since it has died. The latest I do not know; as to what are Ahmed's plans? It would be great if they finally decide to live in Rawalpindi. The more the merrier. We hope Ahmed's will be with us for the next reunion?

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Mian Mehmood is mostly in Kabirwala on his plant. However invariably he drops in my office whenever he is visiting Rawalpindi. Previously he was busy crushing cotton seed and sunflower seed. But lately he has been deeply involved in the propagation of CONNOLLA seed a variety of rape-seed initially developed by Canada. Mian Sahib quite rightly claims that Connolla oil after the olive oil is the second best edible oil and is strongly recommended; specially for heart patients. Mian Sahib has a good equation with Secretary Agriculture and between them they have increased the cultivation of Connolla seed over an area of one million acres. It appears that Mian Sahib has the monopoly of Connolla seed which presently, he has started crushing because the season has just set in. This came in the way of his attending a conference in Australia as a delegate of World Bank, from Pakistan; he told me. I hope his efforts in edible business bring him lot of profits. Best of luck from all of us for MAMTA Sunflower oil and Connolla oil. Lately Mian Sahib was seen together with the Minister for Agriculture on the T.V in the same connection. We are waiting for the day when Mian Sahib's private executive jet will fly us to Kabirwala to see personally his passion for growing flowers like roses and tulips in addition to crushing seeds. Good luck Mian sahib. Mian Sahib showed keen interest in the expenses incurred on the reunion dinner. Expenditure exceeded the contributions when the figures were put up for Mian Sahib's examination. He was very considerate about sharing jointly with Shigri and myself the excess amount spent. But Mian Sahib has been rather busy to attend to such trivial matters. We certainly do appreciate his offer and noble intentions.

Zafar Hashmat our commander southern command, was personally received by me on the tarmac of Chaklala Airfield. He chose the ground-floor room, to stay in Art Officer's Mess. He has a very good friend in Air Marshall Pervez Mehdi in the Air Headquarters, who unfortunately was away at the time Z.Hashmat arrived. But later he shifted in a 3-Star staff car to Islamabad! Unfortunately while leaving Karachi, Zafar Hashmat forgot his wallet at home. So Shigri and I both were very sorry for old Zafar Hashmat. To tide over the situation assistance was provided to him. He is somewhat unhappy over my asking Yusaf Ali to remind Zafar Hashmat to write to me - this was done while I spoke to Yusaf Ali to thank him for responding positively and fast to Saadat's letter. Actually I treat the course-mates as a family and take the liberty of writing all sorts of things about every one of us. So please Zafar Hashmat do not mind it. Today I received a belated message from Mian Fazle Rahim saying that Yusaf Ali met you and that you

P/Q

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had already written for the 2nd time to me. I have no complaint against Yusaf Ali as to why he conveyed the message through Mian Fazle Rahim. It is a question of a call to Karachi and I see no harm in receiving or sending messages provided we all consider ourselves a family. So Zafar Hashmat please do not be unduly sensitive about it; we should take things in the right spirit. I hope you agree with me? Finally I have received your letter and complied with your instructions. Thank you for that. You will agree with me that organising these functions is quite a hassle. Whereas one would like to attend to the individual problems of the dear course-mates, they should also forgive minor failings. You have blamed me that I offered help "reluctantly." The answer is that sometimes one is taken unawares! May be that was the case with me, because I was taken by surprise completely. You have mentioned that in future I should deal with Yusaf Ali, which I shall gladly do if he is chosen to represent the friends in South, and accepts that responsibility. To me Yusaf Ali is a thorough gentleman absolutely objective in his thinking. I consider him in character superior to myself at least and I respect him for that. Zafar Hashmat in your letter you have lamented at length rubbing the point that you have been attending these reunions on 'your own' and spent lot of money on that. Well my dear friend; thanks on behalf of Ist PMA for doing that. Certainly it was very kind on your part. You say it was "not a huge amount." It may perhaps be peanuts for you, but I am a firm believer of speedy settlement of accounts irrespective of the amount involved. If it sounds odd when I say that, well all I can say is sorry but that is the value I uphold, you may not agree. Please forgive me for writing all this, but mind you its all in the family. Hopefully you will see the rationale and logic in what I have stated? I have been frank and straight and have not minced my words. So please do not mind?

Dr. Safdar Butt was very much there. Cheerful as usual, he is always relaxed, giving the impression of having not a worry in the world. Great thing about him is that anyone he talks to gets the impression of total attention. January this year I also met him and his charming wife GORI. Both of them had returned after a winter skiing holiday in the south of France. This holiday is an annual event which is organised under Zafar Khan's patronage. Safdar Butt's wife had undergone surgery in the USA last year, so it was a good opportunity to have a check-up in London. By the Grace of God it went very well and the results were reassuring. Ever smiling Gori remained busy picking up grand children's requirements. Safdar whose wardrobe comprises of some exclusive clothing always kept pulling my leg. It did not bother me at all when Safdar made me a target, for it was all fun in good spirit. To the

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reunion dinner Safdar came alone because Gori had to attend some wedding. Safdar now is a regular smoker. May be he always was but I do not remember that. I sincerely feel that he should cut down on cigarettes. He is a lively company most exuberant and brimming with confidence. His manufacturing concern appears to be doing well. His son is helping him. Their supplies are very prompt but unfortunately there is always delay in payments which is a bother. But he is doing well and we wish him success. Safdar has once again offered an outdoor picnic type reunion at Tarbela or elsewhere. As a Chairman WAPDA I remember Safdar hosting two or three reunions and we all enjoyed it and thanks to him. Thanks for responding positively to Saadat's circular.

MAK Wazir is simply not in touch. Lately he has written no letter nor acknowledged the one sent by me. I hope all is well with him? We would like to hear about his welfare. So please drop us a line Wazir, that would be very kind of you.

Dildar Rana according to Shigri, is hale and hearty. As to why he does not write nor joins any of the reunions I do not know? He is terribly fond of golf and playing that is his daily routine. It may be an obsession with him but why has he lost contact? I have no answer to that. May be we have to wait till the wedding of his niece to Mian Fazle Rahim's son takes place, when hopefully some of us will see him. Good wishes from us Dildar. What is your handicap now?

Mir Abdul Naeem and his Begum were very much there. I had to speak to him on telephone because I had received no reply to my letter sent for the reunion dinner. In an earlier letter written in June '95 Naeem had opposed the idea of changing the date and mooted a suggestion that Rs 2000/- should be contributed every year and he expressed his willingness to do that. I must thank Naeem and his lady wife for responding positively to my request. In spite of the impending visit of principals from the U.S.A, both of them travelled to Rawalpindi for just a night's stay and joined us for the dinner. That was great. Thanks to both of you. Their accommodation was arranged at the AC Officer's Mess. Strange that Zafar Hashmat an AC Officer stayed in Arty Mess and Naeem an Arty Officer was put up in AC Mess. Fault of course is mine who was arranging rooms. It was a great pleasure to have Naeem and Begum. Naeem is still the boss of Wyeth Laboratories at Lahore. We wish them both best of luck.

Kaleem ur Rehman was very prompt in responding to the reunion dinner circular. He confirmed his participation well in time and sent the cheque for the requisite amount. In the past his daughters used to accompany him for our functions

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but I guess they are married and settled now. Anyway we missed them for they are sweet girls. We wish them happiness in their respective homes wherever they are. We have not heard of a gem's exhibition lately, otherwise Kaleem would have been in the news. He travels abroad with his gem-stones and has been to Japan in the east and upto USA in the west. How well he is doing he has never disclosed! He has a fax machine installed at home to facilitate business correspondence. We wish him good luck and may his business flourish further.

Moin Farooqi was very much there with his lady wife and young son who happened to be visiting from Canada. Employed in a multinational in Canada 'Aju' is now engaged to be married towards the end of the year. We hear that bride to be is a charming girl who looks rather sweet in the pictures, which I also saw. Moin has built a new house in Chaklala III and I believe there was some sort of house warming early this year while I was abroad. He has promised another party but at the moment he is most concerned and worried about his mother who unfortunately has gone very weak and is unwell. She has to be hospitalised now and again and even during the Eid holidays she was admitted to the hospital. This is causing lot of strain on both Moin and Yasmin. Lately his brothers have been visiting, to be with their ailing mother. Our prayers for the good health of your mother Munnay. May Allah grant her good health, Amen. Moin has responded positively to the letter circulated by Saadat and thanks to Moin for the contribution.

Saleh was very much there but lately he has not visited my office. His sugar is somewhat under control and he is being very careful about that. His lady wife was also present and it was a great pleasure having them both. They are pretty regular in attending our annual function. He keeps promising me that he would drop in my office to say Hallo but Saleh has not visited so far, perhaps being kept away by his preoccupations. He looked after Jilani and family very well when they visited Rawalpindi last. I am sure Jilani with family were missed by them.

Zair Hussain did not acknowledge the letter regarding reunion dinner. I enquired from Zafar Hashmat on telephone, to learn that Zair was to be in Islamabad around 29th Feb and I remember Zafar Hashmat confirming to me that Zair would join the dinner. I was very happy about it, but disappointed not to see Zair Hussain amongst us. We have not seen him since long. After hearing that Zair was expected to join from Islamabad I did not pursue the matter further. However, in early May I learnt that Zair's telephone numbers were changed. The first three digits instead of 587 have been changed to 584. Eventually I did speak to him to learn that he had lost a young relation in India. He did come to Islamabad but had to leave a day before for Karachi to attend Walima and that is why he could not join us on 29th.

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He has promised to write to me all about himself. In the meanwhile good luck to Zair and family. Had he informed me about the programme of his visit to Islamabad, we would have arranged a get together to suit his convenience. Well Zair sorry to have missed you but you have been rather unfair!

Ijazuddin Khan confirmed his participation with daughter and son-in-law in early January and sent the cheque for the requisite amount. Again he responded promptly to Saadat's circular and sent his contribution which was very nice of him. I.D. was present with family and helped in taking a short movie of the occasion. He has been very kind in editing the movies recorded earlier of our reunion functions. This was a lot of headache and thanks to I.D. for doing a good job of consolidating everything on one cassette. I.D. is associated with Asian Development Bank and travels abroad very frequently for technical studies assigned to him. He mentioned about his visit to ICELAND this summer. The pattern in the past has been to visit hot countries in summer and cold countries in winter. But from the look of things it is getting sorted out. This winter he visited fareast and in hot weather he would be in Iceland. How convenient. Well good luck to I.D. on his foreign trips but please remember to take your Begum with you! I.D. is full of life always cracking jokes and enjoying hearty laughters. Invariably he has asked me to accompany on his foreign trips but I have not been able to make it, except for an accidental meeting in Oxford Street the like of which are most welcome.

Raza is a gem. He has always been present on these reunions and travels all the way from Sialkot. This time I think he was alone and his Begum did not come. In Sialkot he is preoccupied with noble deeds of assisting and helping the needy. He very quickly acted on the circular sent by Saadat and thanks to him for being prompt. It is great feeling to have Raza amongst us every time. A simple soul but a lively company. Thank you Raza for your very regular attendance which is a morale raiser.

I spoke to Hasan Durrani and his Begum personally requesting them to join us for the occasion. But they had a genuine problem. Walima dinner of the son of Gen Fazle Raziq, I believe was to be celebrated the same evening and therefore regretted their inability to attend. The good news is that Durro has responded very well to his prolonged and very expensive treatment of hepatitis. The blood tests have now confirmed that infection stands cured. We wish you good health Durro and thank you also for responding so fast to Saadat's circular. Good luck to you.

S.M.Akhtar has completely disowned the Ist PMA Course and would not like to meet any of us on that basis. He has very good friends in Abdullah, Shigri and Muzaffar Malik etc but he insists on meeting them as friends and not as course-mates. I fail

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to see the logic of his thinking but he is far more intelligent than myself and his beliefs are hard to change. Having suffered for more than two decades Akhtar decided to undergo heart surgery in Sept last year. His recovery Masha Allah was excellent and the comprehensive knowledge that he has about cardiac problems has put him back on the road fit and fine. The quality of life has undergone a major change and he is not like a sick person any more. He walks freely and climbs the stairs without being breathless. A number of us visited him in hospital and subsequently at home and he was always happy meeting friends, NOT COURSEMATES! That is his philosophy and he is welcome to hold his own views. Now he leads a normal life and advises his friends on their ailments. At times pessimistic his views are otherwise alright. He does not believe in forgetting things nor does he forgive people, that is his conviction and he makes no secret of it. We wish him good health and hope and pray that before too long he would decide to get back to the fold of the useless lot of Ist PMA and be amongst us! It is an undeniable truth that most of us know him because he is our coursemate. Exceptions may be M.R.Qazi or Abdullah Malik who may have been his friends since school days. With the excellent memory that he has got he would have gone a long way in the Army but for the heart attack at Kohat in the early seventies which unfortunately terminated his career. He has the singular distinction of being given a foreign assignment in the junior rank of Captain. In a way such early successes in one's life can cause frustrations later if advancements are hampered for one reason or the other. Allah be thanked that he is still together with us and we hope it will be so for a long time. Wish you good health and long life.

M.H.TIWANA has shifted from Karachi to Peshawar. This news was given to me by Durro, who has very kindly provided me the address and telephone number. Tiwana's son the young Tiwana is working in Khyber Bank at Peshawar. According to Durro he met M.H.Tiwana and found him in good spirits despite his condition of having suffered paralysis long time back. I spoke to his son in Khyber Bank and it was gratifying to learn that MHT attended the AC reunion at Nowshera. I have no doubt that MHT & Begum would be happy to join us in the next reunion whenever it is held. Many of us have not seen them. In fact I requested young Tiwana to let me know when his parents travel next to Rawalpindi? May be we can organise a cup of tea to welcome them and more of our friends will be able to meet him. But MHT please give us enough notice. Good luck to you and family and may you improve further to become fighting fit!

Saeed Malik with his Begum and son attended the reunion dinner and it was a pleasant to have them. They were preoccupied in those days, with the wedding of their son to be celebrated in April. Later I learnt that his daughter's Rukhsati

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was also held in those days. In fact Saeed enquired the reason for my absence on the occasion of his daughter's wedding, which was a news to me! Saeed to me has always been a highly organised person who is clear headed. But this occurrence gave the impression of his being absent minded. One day I just happened to call him in the evening and he asked me to join at the Mehndi function of his son for which I had received no invitation. That also surprised me. May be all of us are getting on in age. At least I have become very forgetful. It worries me also because I may not be writing something that may offend a friend. That would be the last thing I dread should happen. Congratulations Saeed on the happy occasion of the wedding of both the children. I hope your planning would be better next time. Thank you for joining us for the reunion dinner.

Finding Abid amongst us was the event of the decade! Every year I talk to him on telephone but this year I happened to speak to his Begum also who promised to attend with Abid and thanks to her that she kept her promise unlike Abid who by virtue of being a Peer is entitled not to keep his word. Thank you Abid for honouring us and every one appreciated it. Thank you for your whole hearted invitation of holding the reunion at Kohat where you would not only host the dinner but also arrange accommodation for all of us. All of us perhaps will be fed off the Peer Sahib's 'Langar'? Well it is upto your coursemates to decide how they wish to celebrate the next get together. If I remember you offered even to transport or Airlift each one of us. Sounds so exciting and great. It was a pleasure seeing you both in my office on your way back to Kohat. If the coursemates are diffident, may be a Kohati Chappal each would tilt the decision in favour of a reunion at Kohat? Well Peerji having you both was a great event and please remember your promise of joining us every time.

C.M.Anwer is a good guy. As far as I remember he has never missed a reunion and we are grateful to him for making it every time all the way from Lahore. He does not like travelling though his son is a G-1 in MO Dte and another lives in Islamabad. But his commitments at home prevent him from making frequent visits to Rawalpindi. Whenever I have given a task to C.M. about first PMA, he has carried out faithfully for which I am grateful to him. He sometimes organises a mini get-together at his home over a sumptuous cup of tea. Jilani has also enjoyed his hospitality. Why he has not been able to persuade Dildar Rana to show up is what I do not know? We are grateful Chaudhry Sahib for all your assistance and for being so regular in attending the reunions. Thanks; God bless you.

In March '95 Jilani was thinking that there were 'eleven months to go'. He was regretting all the previous missed reunions. Jilani was in Pindi in Oct '95 and he enjoyed meeting his colleagues and friends. In Jan '96 he wrote to me stating that he appreciated the 2 months advance notice for the reunion. On

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Jan 29 '96 Jilani conveyed the feeling that if he could make it for mid-term visit there was NO excuse for failing to attend the reunion (on 29th Feb). On 4th Feb Jilani hinted that "there may be a hitch". During this time Mian Mehmood had very kindly made rail-car reservations from Rahimyar Khan to Lahore and onwards to Pindi for the entire family of Jil. Timely action had to be taken because it was becoming increasingly difficult to secure seats due to the Eid rush. Ofcourse I was chasing Mian Sahib all the time because I am somewhat a nervous person. According to a letter written dated 9th Feb which was received in my office on the 18th Feb. Jil conveyed his inability to attend the reunion dinner for the reason that his elder boy who had turned four had to appear for the nursery class interview and selection on 26/27 Feb, in the Fauji Foundation School. In the meantime the arrangements for the travel of Jil and family could not be cancelled. Mian Mehmood's transport reported to Jil, at his village very punctually. We learnt only when the driver of Mian Mehmood called from Bahawalnagar to inform him that Jil and family were not coming; which news was relayed to me instantly for which I apologised to Mehmood. That was the drop scene of the whole drama of getting Jil across to join us. Perhaps in future it would be better for Jil to move independently and give us the pleasure of his company. The train tickets had to be cancelled and I feel sorry for putting Mehmood to a lot of inconvenience. But it was disappointing in the end not to have Jil amongst us. According to Jil, he may time his visits with the school vacations in future. I must say that Jil was most sincerely apologetic about the whole episode. In his letter of 20 April he wants a copy of the news letter. Well initially I was not writing it but then on the insistence of a few friends I decided to go ahead with it. Wish you and the family the very best and hope you are escorting the boy to school every day a journey of 12 miles on foot and by Bus!

H.R.Qadri did not respond to the invitation for attending reunion. I requested Yusaf Ali and Zafar Hashmat to find out if Qadri and Mrs would be joining us? Indirectly I was conveyed that he had to visit Lahore around 29th Feb to collect cash from someone in connection with property disposal. Apparently Qadri & Begum own a lot of property and for Qadri to manage it, is a wholetime occupation. Walking past his house I noticed the couple riding a brand new '96 model black Honda Civic which was acquired just about that time. May be Qadri had to drive it up from Lahore? Qadri seems to have rocketed himself up into the upper strata of society on acquisition of this black beauty . Perhaps it will be quite sometime before he comes down to talk to Shigri who owns an older model! Congratulations Qadri and Begum for the Limousine and hope you enjoy riding it, but please do not write us off.

It was indeed a complete surprise to see Mehmood Zaman Hamid amongst us. He had not acknowledged the receipt of my circular and there was no indication that

Chapter 15

The Reunion at the Rawalpindi Golf Club



Sitting from L/R Ahmad Jamal, Abdullah, Saadat, Abid, Mahmud, Sardar, Babar



Mahmud, Fazli Rahim and Babar



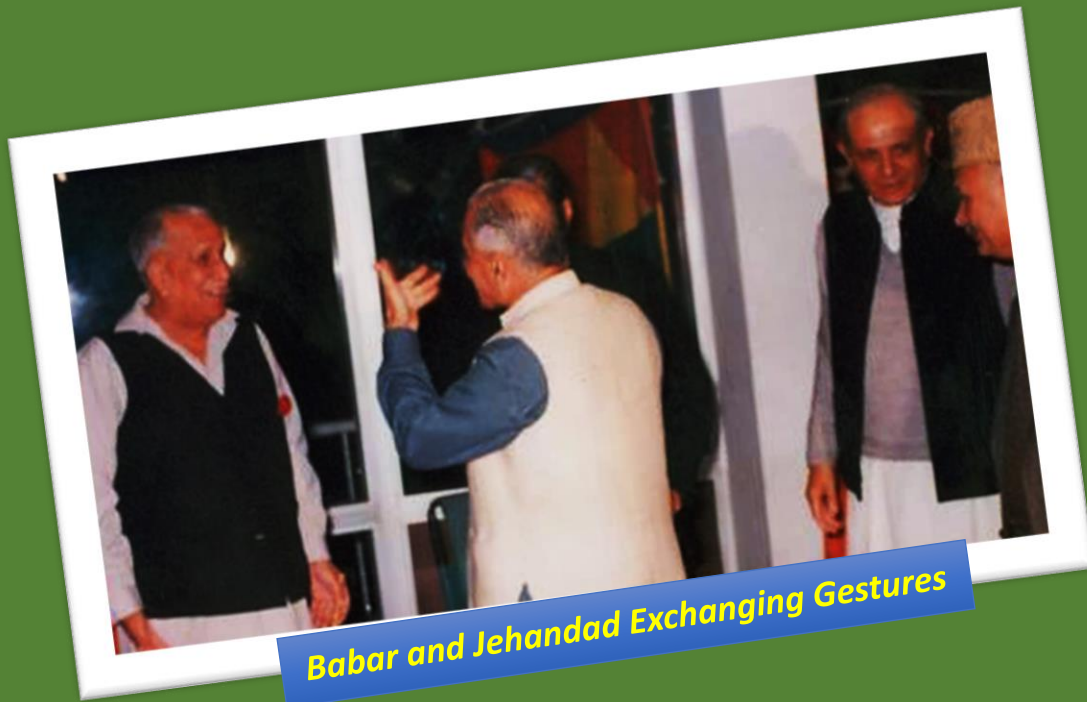
Ahmad Jamal, Ahmad, Saadat and Abid



Shigri and Mian Fazli Rahim gossiping with each other



Ahmad Jamal and Dildar Rana are Standing-Mahmud, Fazle Rahim and Babar are Sitting



NEWS LETTER

47TH GET-TOGETHER 1ST PMA LONG COURSE

In pursuance of the decision taken during a meeting held on 14th Nov '96, in the office of MIAN MEHMOOD, a dinner was arranged on 17th Feb '97 at GHQ Arty Officer's Mess (old Pindi Club); to celebrate the 47th passing-out anniversary of our course. Twenty four of us (including seven from outstation) were able to make it. A good number attended with family.

Arrangements with PAF, identical to last year were made for air-lifting our colleagues from Karachi. For this purpose, as per Zafar Hashmat's advice, four seats were secured for them. But in the end only one made it, which was somewhat disappointing. We expect a better response from Karachi, hopefully next year!

Zafar Hashmat told me initially, that Luqman perhaps would be coming. But as usual he never showed up. He has not bothered to acknowledge my letters. From what I hear, he is hale and hearty and doing well. Good luck Luqman. In case you can spare a few moments, please drop a line.

Zafar Khan is alright. I had the good fortune of spending few days with him last January. Later towards the end of Feb he arrived in Pakistan and left on the 10th of March. This gave him the opportunity to meet a few friends. He takes regular exercise and is fit enough to go for a walk in Hyde Park at seven in the morning, during winter months. That perhaps is the secret of his health. We remembered and missed Abdullah, when Zafar took us to a Restaurant in Paris, where he had taken lunch together with Abdullah. Such is life! May God bless Abdullah's soul. "The moving finger writes and having writ moves on."

Faqira is doing fine. He had proceeded together with his wife for 'UMRA' and on return they were stuck in Karachi due to non-availability of seats for travel to Rawalpindi. He reached Rawalpindi a day before our reunion dinner. His wife who was unable to get a seat with him arrived a day later. Despite the fact that they were completely exhausted, it was a pleasure to have them for the reunion dinner. Thanks to Faqira and special gratitude to his Begum for joining us in the evening though she had arrived from Karachi the same afternoon. Faqiras have shifted from Lahore to Rawalpindi. Presently they are residing in a rented house in Chaklala III. They bought a plot in Chaklala-1 (VIP COLONY) and a house designed by their son is coming up fast. It is nice to have them join the Pindi crowd!

Surprisingly Gul Hayat has started appearing at the reunion functions. He travelled all the way from Lahore by coach, arriving early morning on 17th of Feb. He preferred to barge into Zafar Hashmat's bed room to have 'gup' with him, not caring that Mrs Zafar Hashmat was still asleep. Apparently he preferred company rather than going to his own room and feeling lonely. Thankyou Gul Hayat and please keep it up.

We want you amongst us every year. He had to visit Pindi again a few days later and dropped in my office for a chat. Nice of him!

Ahmed Jamal made it for the annual dinner. There was some wedding in the family which had to be attended. Mrs Ahmed Jamal proceeded to attend the family wedding and Ahmed Jamal decided to join us. He did point out, that no pictures of the function were taken. That was a lapse on my part. For future occasions we shall make sure that arrangements for photography are made. Thankyou Ahmed Jamal for being with us.

Earlier I received a letter from Yusaf Ali that he would be travelling for the anniversary dinner. He promptly sent his contribution in cash. But later he wrote that "owing to certain reasons" he would not be able to join us. That was disappointing but nevertheless we hope that he would be amongst us next year. We missed a polite companion.

Ambassador (R) Sardar Ahmed was with us. He is presently the President of the association of retired ambassadors. This keeps him fairly busy. He has to organise meetings, tours and lectures etc. Invariably he has to travel abroad taking delegates, in response to the invitations from similar associations of friendly countries. He has the demeanor of a diplomat. Thankyou Sardar but please remember to bring your lady wife next time.

Saadat Ali is full of spirits as ever. He was accompanied as usual. One thing great about him is, the prompt response and acknowledgement that I always get. Invariably the first cheque I receive is from him, whether for the dinner expenses or contribution towards the course fund. He is still fond of 'Shikar' and likes to camp out, after lot of walking. Good exercise, even if he is unable to bag many birds! He is fit and fine and takes very active interest in Ist PMA affairs. Thankyou for your patronage Agha Jan.

Mian Fazal-ur-Raheem is another very active member of our association. He attended with his wife and it was a pleasure to have them both. He has very good memory and at the same time is knowledgeable. It is a treat to listen to him, whether the subject is traits of the Bhuttos (on which he wrote a research paper), or military history. His views are based on deep study, and objective analysis. His contribution was the second highest towards the course fund. I tried to return some of the amount, but he very politely declined to accept it back. He is extremely helpful by nature and goes out of his way to support a genuine cause. Last year he celebrated his son's wedding and our course was well represented.

Shigri still thinks that he is the RSM. CGs like myself are afraid of him. He has endless affection for his course-mates. He held a dinner at his house for Hasan Durrani & wife, Zafar Hashmat & wife and Jilani, wife and the little boy. He enjoys looking after his course-mates and especially Jilani who is his favourite.

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We wish you good luck in your indenting activities and may you make bags of money to enable you to contribute even bigger amounts to the course fund. Please remember to bring your lady wife next time and we assure you that we shall not talk about your Cadet-day activities in the hearing of your Begum.

Jahan Dad Khan did not acknowledge the circular. Once he complained to me that we all, his course-mates, do not attend any function which he organises like the get-together of retired army officers in Islamabad. Well sir, that cannot be equated with the first PMA functions of your colleagues with whom you spent two years together. Am I right? Nevertheless I would urge our course-mates in Islamabad and Pindi to try and attend J.D's Islamabad function to satisfy him, and in return, expect him to join us for our once a year get-together! Keep up the good work of your trust eye hospital sir, and please do not write off your course-mates, for failing to satisfy the condition of a barter deal!

I spoke to Muzaffar Malik to try and persuade him to travel for the reunion. But unfortunately he was not sounding very bright and preferred to skip it this time. Well Muz look after yourself, take care and please try to join us next year.

Mufti Wajahat Hussain was contacted by Zafar Hashmat. Mrs Wajahat unfortunately is not keeping very good health. She is reluctant to travel and that ties down our friend Wajahat who cannot leave his wife unattended. Well Mufti Sahib we hope and pray that your Begum gets well and both of you can then join the next get-together. Best wishes to both of you.

Nasirullah Babar together with his Begum joined us. He is very regular and normally does not miss the annual reunion dinner. Prior to Zafar Khan's departure we were together for an impromptu luncheon at Daman-e-Koh and I was amazed to see his popularity. A lady walked to our table to exchange greetings and pay tributes to Babar. According to him he did not know her at all! Walking out of the Restaurant some young enthusiasts wished to be photographed with him and he readily obliged. Some people are popular even when out of power! Never mind Bob, if fighting elections in Nowshera and Karachi have made you a pauper. Sure the wheel of fate will turn again sometime. Thankyou for all the assistance rendered by you to your couraemates, while you were in office.

Hayatullah attended alone and travelled all the way for this annual do. His lady wife was in the station but was unable to make it due to some other commitment. Except for the last get-together which Hayatullah was unable to attend, I must say that together with his wife, he has always showed up. Thankyou Hayatullah and please keep it up.

Aziz Alam had confirmed his attendance and a seat for him was secured on the C-130 A.C. But something went wrong with his back at the last minute and he could not make it? But his telephone call from Karachi right in the middle of dinner, conveying

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good wishes was indicative of his love for the course-mates. Well Aziz Alam, we are not going to accept any excuse next time and kindly do prepare yourself for joining us at the next anniversary function together with your lady wife. Please remember that.

I never heard from Mohammad Ahmed this time and it is most unusual and unlike him. I know through Moin Faruqi that Ahmeds are fit and fine but why he never wrote to me is rather strange. Well, Ahmed best wishes to you and family but please do not ignore us.

Thanks to Mian Mehmood for flying in from Kabirwala especially for the occasion. We are grateful for your contribution to the course fund and presently you happen to be right on top. Your lady wife was out of station and she was missed. Mian Sahib is extremely busy supplying Connolla seed to the farmers. Over a period of three to four years, Connolla cultivation has shot up from thousands of acres to millions of acres now. Please keep it up to help us save valuable foreign exchange expended on import of edible oils. The seminar on Connolla cultivation was thumping success. It is heartening to learn that Kabirwala Plant is now busy all the year round, crushing seeds, whether it is soyabean, cotton or Connolla. Well done and wish you all the best.

Zafar Hashmat, the Comd Southern Command called me early in Feb saying that he had been advised angiography and that I should arrange for his admission in AFIC Rawalpindi. Now, this was quite upsetting, for I have known Zafar Hashmat to be always in good health. Having done the needful I informed him that he would be admitted in AFIC for investigations, within 36 hours of his arrival. He decided to postpone his visit in order to combine it with the annual dinner. Both, Zafar Hashmat and his lady wife were here for the dinner and it was a pleasure to have them. The day after dinner, he reported to AFIC where Brig Noori, the cardiologist carried out investigations. In the end it was ruled that Zafar Hashmat need not undergo angiography, which was a welcome news. He was prescribed medicines which would take care of his problem. During their stay the couple travelled to Lahore and back, where Zafar Hashmat visited his son and also condoled the death of a relative with family members. It was nice to have both of them and they had the opportunity to meet practically all the course-mates residing-in or visiting Rawalpindi. Hopefully Zafar Hashmat would be able to persuade more of the course-mates in Karachi to join the next year's function?

Safdar Butt is hale and hearty together with his Begum in Lahore. His one daughter is already in the U.S.A. Now his only son and daughter-in-law have left for Canada together with their baby girl. Ofcourse Safdar and his wife are missing them terribly. But the children have to proceed with their higher studies and explore places for better quality of life. Parents cannot stand in their way. It is a matter of consolation that one daughter is living in Lahore. Safdars are not without company altogether. Safdar could not attend the dinner due to his knee problem which got aggravated during the 'Shikar' trip with Saadat. However, we met later in Islamabad while Zafar Khan was here. Dr Butt is requested to kindly make it a point to attend

P/5

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next function together with his wife.

Ayaz Khan Wazir had proceeded to Hyderabad to spend winter with his son who is a Major. I hope to hear from him when he returns. Saleh keeps me updated with news regarding our friend Ayaz. I will try to speak to him once he is back in Islamabad.

We met Dildar Rana last December when he was here to attend his niece's wedding with F. Raheem's son. He never writes and I do not know the reason why he has not turned up for the annual get-togethers for many years now. He has a very good partner in Shigri to play golf with and good company in Kreshi for spending the 'evening'. I see no problem in Dildar Rana's coming to attend the function. Good luck Dildar and do remember to please join us next time.

Mir Abdul Nayeem & wife were away to States but had returned when I spoke to them at Lahore urging them to make it for the 17 Feb dinner. Initially they agreed to travel to Rawalpindi and a room was booked for both in AC officer's mess with Zafar Hashmat's assistance. Then they changed their mind because Nayeem was not too well to travel. Hope both of them are alright and we look forward to having them with us next year.

Kaleem the gem, is always prompt in attending course functions. Whether the host is an individual or it is a course get-together. That we highly appreciate. Thankyou Kaleem for your contribution for dinner and course fund; without ever having to remind you.

Moin Faruqi and Begum have been very regular in attending individual as well as collective functions of course. He makes timely contributions and has very kindly agreed to look after the accounts etc of the course fund. Thankyou Munnay for sharing my burden by volunteering to take that responsibility. Most of us attended their son's wedding and enjoyed it thoroughly. His daughter visiting from Canada has been keeping them both very busy.

Saleh takes lot of interest in the affairs of the course. He looks after Jilani during his Pindi visits especially driving him to the graveyard where Jilani's sister is buried. He is a very noble soul. Most of us attended his son's wedding celebrated not long ago. Jilani and family especially enjoyed the 'Mehndi' function which was a family affair. He has taken pains to get a 1948 photograph of Tariq Coy, (5 Pl) printed and mounted with all the names, written on it. It has cost Rs 160/- a copy. Interested people can have it from my office.

Zair Hussain announced that he would be travelling to Pindi. His seat on C-130 was booked. But he decided at the last minute to travel to Quetta to help his son pack up who had been transferred perhaps after staff course. I suppose, that is an important duty to be attended to! Well Zair, we hope next time you would be gracious enough to give priority to the course get-together. After all your old colleagues also have a right on you besides your very dear children!

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Ijazuddin Khan is fit and fine. He joined us with family for the anniversary dinner. Rather a busy executive, he is adviser to the Asian Development Bank; an assignment which takes him to places. This time he was to travel to Seoul and was planning to return via Canada after visiting his daughter in Toronto. He has become a globe trotter but he enjoys it, especially the cuisine of five star hotels. Good luck I.D. and thankyou for being with us every time.

Raza, who is settled in Sialkot never delays acknowledging a letter. Every time he travels from Sialkot to be with his coursemates. That is the spirit Raza and please keep it up. Next time bring your Begum also.

Hasan Durrani celebrated the wedding of his son sometime towards the end of December last. He was kind enough to invite us both for the Walima lunch arranged at the PAF Officer's Mess Peshawar. I have not attended a lunch with better variety of dishes and abundant in quantity. Quails, chicken of different types, quorma, whole mb roast, meat dishes, kababs, fish, heaps of fresh fruits, choice desserts including "Halva Gajar" and what not. You think of the dish and it was there. The food was in such plenty that you cannot imagine. It was opulent hospitality. He asked me to stay back for the musical evening which we were unable to do. Congratulations Durro for the fabulous feast. Durro and Begum travelled to Pindi for the occasion and we enjoyed having them. He had to proceed to India for the RIMC platinum Jubilee. On Zee TV we saw Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, Gul Hasan and Fazle Raziq but I could not spot Durro. Thankyou for joining us.

S.M. Akhtar is fine with his Begum. This is no news that he does not like to attend course functions. He did turn up for Saeed Malik's luncheon party but according to Akhtar, that is - "going to a friend's house". I am at a loss to understand the logic of it, but may be you all can see the rationale?

Tiwana, I understand is in Multan with his son who is a Major in AC. I tried to contact him but was unable to do so. Unfortunately his condition after paralysis is about the same. We wish him good health and hope he improves to be able to look after himself.

Saeed Malik and Begum were present for the reunion dinner. They thoroughly enjoyed the evening. In early March Saeed Malik invited his course-mates with wives to his house for a luncheon party of "Queeme-Wale-Nan". A number of us turned up. It was a lovely afternoon and "Karahi" chicken was a bonus. Every one enjoyed it and above all Saeed Malik and Begum were delighted to host this lunch on their sprawling lawn. Spring was in the air and beautiful flowers like sweet peas and pansies were in bloom. well done Saeed Malik & Begum. We wish you to hold many more such parties and thankyou.

Abid did not make it this time. Last time he attended with Begum that took some convincing and a few telephone calls. He did contact me about some task with Askari Bank

-:7:-

both of you are with us next year.

Mian Mahmood was with us for the dinner. He travelled from Kabirwala. His Begum was away to Karachi for a family wedding and could not make it.

Mian Sahib is a great well wisher of the course. He contributes generously and expects that whatever presentation we make to the PMA would be something respectable and would go with the dignity of our course. He believes that our course gave the best performance. On this subject, while he was flying Gen Tikka Khan, some years back, an argument developed, between them. Mehmood disagreed with Tikka that IMA/PMA was the best course. He went on to prove that our course was the best. At the time Abdullah was the DMI, Riaz was perhaps the DMO, Mian Sahib was Comd Div Arty, Babar was Comd Div Arty 23 Div and J.D. Director Arty etc. So Mian Sahib was able to prove to Tikka that with Ist PMA holding all the key appointments they were the best course! Tikka perhaps relented and got convinced.

Mehmood is most concerned about raising funds for the forthcoming presentation to PMA. On his suggestion I got in my office 10x cartons of cooking oil (Conolla & Sunflower). He gave, these at cost price i.e. Rs 165/- per bottle, and I am to sell at Rs 200/- per bottle, which is Rs 10/- less than the market price. We make a profit of Rs 35/- per bottle. I have managed to sell 8x cartons so far. When all are sold a profit of a couple of thousand rupees would go to the credit of course funds.

Thankyou Mian Sahib for your kind gesture. But marketing I assure you is not that easy, even at this attractive price. Hope your Begum shall also join us for the next reunion.

The comd Southern Command (Zafar Hashmat) blissfully arrived with his contingent of four from Karachi. He stayed in Arty Officer's mess. It was good to see him together with others every morning from 3rd to 6th of Feb. He says there is some problem with his knees, which have to support a good weight, but I found him alright.

Vahidy is perhaps a little unhappy with him. But I hope like a good Comd, he will manage to win over the loyalties of our friend Vahidy. There is a requirement for more get-togethers of the friends in Karachi and Yusuf Ali has already taken a lead in this respect. At least that is what I feel?

Zafar Hashmat enjoyed his job for under a year with Diwan Sugar Mills and eventually decided to quit. Service with a Seth is an uphill task. So he did well. Good luck Zafar Hashmat and keep the first PMA flag flying high with all seven of you together.

Safdar Butt was with us unaccompanied. We did not like this. Had I known earlier we would have got his lady wife across ahead of him from Lahore. Perhaps next time we would do that.

Safdar is a highly active Comd of the Central Command. He has very kindly taken on the responsibility for getting the designing done of the presentation to be made to

-:8:-

PMA. He is experienced in this respect because he has got made in the past, somewhat similar structures for Tarbela Dam and Karakoram Highway. Hope I am not wrong?

He has been regularly visiting Muzaffar, Naeem and C.M. Anwer the sick coursemates and keeps me posted with the state of their health. He is a Comd with initiative and is sure to come up with some idea that would ever be a reminder of Ist PMA course, to the future generations of cadets at the academy.

On top of that he has very graciously volunteered to raise additional funds depending on the amount of shortfall. Now that is not easy at all.

Well Safdar thankyou for everything. We the coursemates are grateful to you for the keen interest you are taking in our affairs. We admire you for your qualities of leadership! Please make sure that all is peaceful and quiet on the "home front" to enable both of you to be with us for the golden jubilee!

There is no news from Ayaz. There is no response from the telephone number he gave us. It must have changed because we cannot get in touch with him. I shall have to request one of our friends in Islamabad to try and speak to him and enquire about his welfare. If you get this news letter, please acknowledge Ayaz and let me know your contact number.

The great news is that Dildar Rana was amongst us for the anniversary dinner. He looks fine and leads a relaxed life. His main interest is golf which he plays regularly. With all the children settled he has no worries. He is a landlord in that he owns a good size agricultural farm which gives him steady income. Well thankyou Dildar for joining us and hopefully your Begum shall be with you for the next year's get-together. Please remain in touch so that Shigri is not bothered to check if you are still around!

Nayeem unfortunately is not keeping well. He has been visited by Safdar Butt and also lately by Ahmed Jamal. When I enquired from Nayeem towards the end Jan if he would be coming, his answer was that he had no intimation of the reunion programme. Luckily his wife grabbed the telephone and confirmed to me that the circular for the 4th Feb get-together had been received and she promptly informed that Nayeem unfortunately is suffering from a mental condition called dementia. There is also some problem with his legs affecting mobility. But he is on the mend.

We are sorry to miss Nayeem and Begum and pray to Allah to grant Nayeem good health. Ameen. Hopefully both of them will join us next year for the golden jubilee reunion.

Kaleem-ur-Rehman is a very active participant of the course activities. He has been attending the get-togethers very regularly. Whenever I have asked him to join us for a cup of tea, he has very willingly obliged. He was host to the outstation colleagues and they enjoyed his hospitality. He looks alright except that he does not stand straight and has developed a little stoop. I have never heard him complaining about anything. Thankyou Kaleem for your interest in the Ist PMA affairs and paying

-:9:-

Golden Jubilee celebrations, of our course are getting close. IMA/PMA course celebrated their Golden Jubilee early this month, on the date they started their course at IMA Dehradun. They have somehow observed the date of joining and not the date of passing-out like us. Therefore their list consists of everyone who started the course irrespective of whether he was relegated or left the academy. But I suppose their number is not very large. The way they went about was, spending a day at PMA Kakul. They had donated Rs 100,000 to PMA's library and carried an additional sum of Rs 200,000 to Kakul. The ceremony of unveiling a plaque fixed in the library was held during their visit. They were luncheon guests of the Commandant after their visit to the academy and returned in the afternoon. A dinner followed at Rawalpindi and that was their celebration of golden Jubilee. Well, their's is a rich course because years back Al-Saeed the prince and later defence minister of Muskat donated £ 50,000/-, which was sensibly invested and administered. They pay a monthly stipend to all widows and render financial assistance, otherwise to the needy without dipping into their principal.

May I request for your ideas about the forthcoming golden Jubilee. We cannot afford to donate such large sums but would like to do something dignified. What do you say? Please allow me to share your thoughts!

COURSE FUND : I am pleased to report to you all, that out of the 43 surviving about 13 made their contributions towards the course fund. Including the amount carried forward, the balance stands at over Rs 18,000/-. Moin Faruqi has very kindly agreed to look after the accounts and financial matters of the course. A saving bank a/c has been opened in the names of both of us and contributions received in future would be deposited straight into this account. Moin is maintaining a ledger for this purpose and you are most welcome to look at the accounts of 1st PMA course. If you like I can request Moin to prepare a statement of account and the same can be circulated? If you have any suggestions, please write to Moin directly in this regard. Thankyou Moin.

NEXT GET-TOGETHER : Eid is likely to fall around 31 Jan next year. Therefore we see no reason for not celebrating the 48th anniversary on wed the 4th of Feb 1998. Your ideas and suggestions are most welcome?

This news letter is rather brief and devoid of personal details pertaining to many of our course-mates. The reason for this, mainly, is lack of contact and communication. There is no doubt that the welfare of each one of us, is of interest to all of us. We know more about those who remain in touch. My message to those who prefer to remain aloof is - please keep the spirit of comradeship alive, even though it may not serve your individual interest. In this ripe advanced age when all of us are getting close to the 'end of the journey', we must give up grudges and have no ill will against anyone, for that is the essence of our faith. After all what is life?

-:10:-

" LIFE'S BUT A WALKING SHADOW,
A POOR PLAYER THAT STRUTS AND FRETS ITS HOUR UPON STAGE,
AND THEN IS HEARD NO MORE -
IT IS A TALE,
TOLD BY AN IDIOT FULL OF SOUND AND FURY
SIGNIFYING NOTHING"

Shakespeare

We are now in the last 'quarter' of our life spans. It would be a good thing to imbibe the axiom :-

" Cease from anger, and forsake wrath:
fret not thyself to do evil."

the guidelines for our deeds and actions may be :-

" WORK as if you are going to live forever,
and ACT as if you are going to die tomorrow."

Sorry, if it sounds like a sermon, but please do remember, that I respect you all for your knowledge and wisdom.

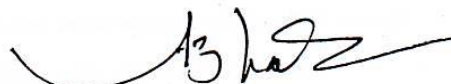
In the end, on behalf of the 1st PMA long course, may I wish you and your families a very healthy, happy and prosperous long life. Please remember that active participation by each one of you is the lifeline of our association. Kindly do acknowledge this very brief News Letter. Thanks.

God bless you all!

Very sincerely yours

29 MAR 97

RAWALPINDI



GC-169

AZHAR ALI SYED

NEWS LETTER

49TH GET-TOGETHER 1ST PMA LONG COURSE

In accordance with the contents of the circular dated 02 Jan '99, a dinner was arranged on 04 Feb'99 at the GHQ Arty Mess, (old Pindi Club) Rawalpindi, to celebrate the 49th passing-out anniversary of our course. Attendance was reasonable, in that twenty five of us were present, out of the surviving forty two; in addition to the few ladies which numbered only eleven.

A very pleasant surprise was, that four of our colleagues turned up from Karachi. I have no doubt that the meeting held at Yusuf Ali's house in mid-November last year was a great motivating factor. PAF like previous years were very kind and brought over Luqman, Yusuf, Aziz Alam and Zafar Hashmat by C-130 on the evening of 2nd Feb. It was raining at the time. But Moin Faruqi was there to receive our course-mates and so were Qadri and Jilani. It was kind of all three of them to brave the inclement weather to welcome our friends from Karachi. Special thanks to Qadri for driving after dark which he usually avoids due to eyesight problem.

The inward journey was quite comfortable. It was a direct flight to Chaklala. However the return flight had some problem. The aircraft took off at about 1000 hours on 7th Feb and was to go via Peshawar and Mianwali. On arrival at Mianwali it could not take off due to some technical problem. The operations branch at Chaklala detailed another C-130 which again had to return to Chaklala just after 15 minutes of flying again due to some technical fault. Operations then had to wait for the third aircraft arriving from somewhere which was redirected at about 9 P.M. to proceed to Mianwali. I am told by Yusuf Ali that the hospitality at Mianwali Base was "simply overwhelming" and the Base Comd, Air Commodore Shaukat Haider looked after them very well. Anyhow all four of our colleagues took off from Mianwali around 23.00 Hrs and arrived at Masroor Air Base past 01.30 on Monday morning. Fortunately for them the transport was provided by PAF, otherwise it would have been a big hassle getting home from Malir in the wee hours of the early morning. This question of transport from Masroor-base was a subject of discussion at my house also, over the potluck hosted for the outstation friends. Some telephone calls were also made but in the end it appears that PAF assistance for transport came in handy. Anyhow all is well that ends well. Sorry for the inconvenience folks!

Initially I was getting confused signals whether Luqman would be coming or not? Zafar Hashmat was highly doubtful but Yusuf Ali appeared to be having some hope of Luqman joining us. At one time Zafar Hashmat informed me that only himself and Yusuf Ali would travel to Pindi. But I am not the one to give up easily. A bid for four seats with four names was put in and fortunately all four turned up. That was great!

On arrival Luqman was taken unwell. He perhaps was not well clad and caught some sort of chill. He was having a bad cough also. But he was very wise to stay in bed for twenty four hours or so, which helped him recover quickly. Many of us saw Luqman after

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a long time and it was a great pleasure to have him amongst us for the 49th anniversary dinner. Thankyou Luqman, for being with us. You were not very communicative perhaps due to being unwell but hopefully next time for the golden jubilee celebrations you shall be your usual self!

Zafar Khan is doing fine. He visited Pakistan last Oct. In fact he had with him, a couple visiting from America. They were the daughter and son-in-law of one Col Mccadon of USMAAG who was posted to Pakistan in the late fifties and has since died. They lived in Chaklala when the lady was a young girl. She was very happy to see the house in which she lived with her parents and took some photographs as well. Zafar went end Dec/Jan for his skiing holiday in south of France. His elder brother from Pakistan joined him and his brother-in-law went from London. Zafar is quite fit by the grace of Allah. Skiing at our age is not easy and he is at it three to four hours a day. He travelled to USA for a week returning in the middle of Feb, which was again a skiing trip. We wish him the best and expect that he will find time to join us next year for the golden jubilee celebrations. Thankyou Zafar for paying your subscriptions regularly. Please try and join us next year.

Faqira and his lady wife were with us for the dinner. Begum Faqir Mohammed is a very pleasant and cheerful lady who is always happy to be with us. At least she makes sure that Faqira does not forget and remains free from his other preoccupations. Faqira by the grace of God is quite affluent and keeps wheeling and dealing in business, estate or whatever is profitable. He drops in my office some time and tells me many interesting stories. He is full of life. We were once on the subject of being miserly and stingy. We talked about Hotis of Mardan. Actually I mentioned to him that in the seventies during a visit to Military Hospital I saw three big black Mercedes cars parked there. On enquiry, the medical specialist told me that Nawab of Hoti was admitted. The cars belonged to him and he brought them over apprehending that his sons might take them away while he was hospitalised. He has since passed away. Anyway Faqira told me about a Hoti elder who was fond of collecting dollars and stuffing them in bags, during the late thirties. That was his craze and would hide these bags away in the attic of his house, which remained locked. Perhaps he was away from home when there was a storm and it poured. The roof of the attic was leaking profusely and the muddy water destroyed the dollar notes. On return he decided to climb up the roof to check the leakage. But unfortunately for him the roof caved in bringing him down and the old man perished along with the decayed dollar notes. That was sad. A generation later there was another Hoti elder fond of stacking away money in the bank but not in his own name for the fear of his children depriving him. As the luck would have it the old man died suddenly. This was in the early forties. The balance which was in eight figures in the names of unidentified persons eventually went to the bank. This was quite interesting to learn about such an affluent family of Mardan. Thankyou Faqira for joining us.

Gul Hayat turned up very promptly, on the 3rd of Feb. He had asked me to fix his appointment with Al Shifa trust hospital for the examination of his eyes. This was done through the kind courtesy of Jahandad. Fortunately the examination of his eyes went well.

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Soon after the dinner on 4th Feb, Gul Hayat left for Lahore. He was good enough to drop in my office in the morning earlier on, for a cup of tea and we had good gup shup. He had very kind words to say about Safdar, Comd Central Command. Whenever Safdar is driving past Gul Hayat he invariably stops to say Hello, which is very considerate of Safdar. Gul Hayat while departing complained that the mess had overcharged him. I am sorry for that Gul Hayat but I shall take up the matter with the administrator of the Arty Offrs mess. Thankyou for being with us. We look forward to seeing you for the golden jubilee reunion or earlier ofcourse whenever possible.

Ahmed Jamal had to proceed to Lahore. But he was kind enough to call from Lahore to express his keenness to join the dinner provided he was able to make it, which unfortunately he could not. He was in my office next day together with some other colleagues for a cup of tea. It was good opportunity for him to meet a few of the course-mates. He gave us a run down on the state of health of the ailing friends in Lahore, like Muzaffar Malik, Naeem Khan and C.M. Anwer. It was indeed very thoughtful of him to visit personally each one of the sick course-mates. Thankyou Jamal for this kind gesture of yours. Please remember to mark the golden jubilee date on the calendar and make yourself available for joining us for the celebration. No other commitments - please remember!

Yusuf Ali is a gem. I have yet to come across a more contented person. He is a man totally satisfied with his lot, always generous in expressing his gratitude.

He looked a typical Lucknawi wearing black achkan with black topi and white pyjama. His approach to life is positive, always saying that the glass is 'half full' and not that it is 'half empty'. For a short period he assumed the Command of southern command when Zafar Hashmat was busy doing a job with Diwan Sugar Mills in Thatta. Prior to handing back the command he hosted a get-together for the Karachiites. On 17 Nov five course-mates were at his house. Luqman and Vahidy were unable to make it. It was a good gesture on the part of Yusuf to invite friends to his house before relinquishing Command. The result was admirable, in that we had four of our course-mates join us out of the seven residing in Karachi. Yusuf is always kind to present me with Havana cigars, which I know are very expensive. He is altogether a fine gentleman, correct in every way.

Sardar Ahmed was able to join us for the dinner. He even came over for a morning cup of tea in my office. My office is a Qawah Khana which is normally sleepy during the year. But around 4th Feb every year it springs to life suddenly and is buzzing with activity. Thanks to my course-mates who are so full of life. Now I have digressed from the subject, sorry for that. Sardar has been appointed President of the Romania-Pakistan Friendship Forum, with the aim of promoting friendship. He is already busy with some social work with an NGO to help refugees from occupied Kashmir. He is Mashaallah quite fit and we wish him the best. Some of the course-mates questioned Sardar in my office about writing Ambassador (Retd) as a rank in place army rank of Brig. He went at length to explain that those who joined foreign service after clearing the examinations in

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open competition and having been selected on merit are supposed not to write the army rank, and that is why he had to drop it. Well Sardar as long as you realise that before you became the blue blooded diplomat you were a thorough bread army officer for more than two decades, its O.K. He confirms that he is proud of his service in uniform and it is the army that enabled him to join the foreign service. But according to him it was mandatory to drop the rank in his case. He stated that he would not have become the president of the retired ambassador's association if he had carried the rank with him. Well Sardar, we have no complaints. Please suit yourself, but continue to be an active participant of the Ist PMA association, which has all the right on you. Next time we hope your lady wife will also join us for the reunion. Thanks for being with us.

Saadat Ali is great. A very active member of our association who takes keen interest in the affairs and all matters pertaining to our course. He is the chairman of the committee for deciding, the presentation to be made to the PMA on the occasion of our golden jubilee. I drove him to Kakul for a preliminary meeting with the Comdt on this subject. I must say he is very pragmatic. Unlike some of us he does not live in fool's paradise and has a singularly practical approach in analysing a problem. He is extremely regular in attending all meetings dealing with course matters and does not mince his words, while giving his forthright views. He is down to earth and ever reluctant to take to air alongwith those who keep flying high. It is indeed an asset to have such a balanced person keenly interested in course matters. Thankyou Agha Jan for everything. Please keep guiding us.

Mian Fazal-ur- Raheem proceeded abroad for medical treatment during November last year. He informed me that he would stop in London for about three to four weeks and then fly across to America. His son in USA has fixed appointments with doctors for Mian Sahib's check up. He anticipated his return from abroad some time in March/April this year. We wish Mian Sahib the best of luck and hope he will return soon with a clean bill of health. Looking forward to hearing from you Mian Sahib, on your return. Please remember to join us for the golden jubilee celebrations. Thankyou for your contribution, paid very promptly.

Shigri is absolutely fit and fine. He like before can bully a plain GC like myself. His love for course-mates is tremendous. Hospitable as he is, his is an open house. Any number of colleagues are welcome to his house any time of the day. You are sure to find a sumptuous meal if it is meal time. He receives his guests from outstation with open arms, but talks to us locals with "closed fists". He is his usual self - tall and handsome and is never afraid of anyone except God and his Begum. So he says! Actually all men are afraid of their wives (especially at our age) and those who say they are not; only means that they do not admit it. He feels very uncomfortable during the summer months and migrates to his summer residence in scenic Skardu from May to Sept. There is an open invitation for any of the course-mates to visit him up in the mountains any time to enjoy his hospitality. Regretfully the invitation does not include travel expenses!

-:5:-

He is a great believer of the course funds and has always advocated for a respectable amount in the kitty to enable our association to thrive. He is ever willing to contribute beyond his share! Thankyou RSM sahib. Please continue your efforts to discipline your first PMA course, and make sure that for the forthcoming reunion there are no absentees.

Jahan Dad is doing a great job. He runs a hospital that restores the eyesight of the needy - a very noble activity. He is very regular in attending the reunions and is quite enthusiastic about the course affairs. He has mastered the technique of collecting funds for his sublime mission which has enabled him to construct another eye hospital in Sukkur. The building is near completion and the hospital should be commissioned very soon. He also has established an eye clinic in Islamabad which is already functional. We wish him God speed in his worthy pursuits. Well done J.D, your contribution is tremendous, and please keep it up. You are the icon of our course.

Muzaffar unfortunately has been unwell the whole of last year. He was in great pain in June last year and had to proceed to London for medical treatment which brought him some relief. Again he had to go to for a check up to London in early October. In view of his poor health he decided to shift and live with his daughter in Lahore, which was a lot better than living alone. Safdar Butt has been visiting Muzaffar at his house and kept me posted with his condition. Very kind of Dr Safdar. Muzaffar is a brave man and a great fighter.

He proceeded to London again on 6th Feb and underwent extensive and complicated surgery on the 9th. Zafar Khan gave me his telephone number at the hospital. I spoke to him on 18th Feb to learn that he shall remain hospitalised for a few days. However he left hospital around 22nd Feb and is since back in Lahore. I talked to him on telephone. He sounded feeble and weak.

Let us all pray to Allah to grant him good health to enable him to lead a comfortable life. Best wishes from us all and our prayers are with you. Hope you have picked up some strength since your return?

Mufti Wajahat was not able to make it for the reunion. He wrote to me a letter on 12th Jan explaining the reason for his inability to join us. His wife is a patient of rheumatism. She is confined to wheel chair due to arthritis and is unable to move even with the help of a walker. Their daughter is in USA and there is nobody else to look after her. This has tied down our friend Wajahat and he cannot move out.

Well Wajahat many thanks for your generous contribution which all of us appreciate. We would very much like you and your Begum to be with us for the golden jubilee celebrations. If your lady wife is willing to travel, suitable arrangements could be made. People who have to use wheel chair can and do travel. It is for both of you to decide. Hope you got my letter?

Prayers of all of us are for your Begum and may Allah grant her relief. Ameen.

Babar and his Begum have been attending these reunions very regularly. When

-:6:-

in power, even the high office that he held, could not prevent him from joining us. They say that good memory is a prerequisite to greatness. Well I can assure you that Babar has a sharp and vivid memory to the extent of even remembring dates, of the events of the past century. I for one have got a very bad memory and it is a great handicap, I know. At times it can be highly embarrassing .

Babar is the one who supported the idea of leaving something memorable at the PMA to be a perpetual reminder of our course. He is absolutely clear in his thinking and is never confused like most of us. It is always a pleasure to talk to him. His views I have found to be invariably weighty, candid and forthright.

Well Bob thankyou for your interest in the course matters and we wish you both well and look forward to your participation in the golden jubilee celebrations.

Hayatullah has been very regular in attending our get-togethers in the past. He was unable to make it this time for the reason that his son and daughter had arrived from abroad. The family decided to have their reunion in Lahore where the inlaws of his daughter live. It all happened during the first week of Feb and that is the reason why Hayatullah and Begum could not join us. I spoke to him on 20th Feb and was glad to learn that both of them are hale and hearty. I have urged Hayatullah to ensure that they do not miss the golden jubilee next year.

It is after a long time that we had Aziz Alam amongst us. He travels to USA to visit his children, almost every alternative year and then stays out for a long time. During 97/98 he stayed out almost for one year. Actually Aziz Alam is the one who mooted the idea of these get-togethers of our course. This was a long time back, perhaps when he was posted at Islamabad.

There is not much change and Aziz Alam looks very much the same, fit and active. While in USA he travels to visit his children. All three of them are residing 600 to 700 miles apart. So the couple have to travel a lot. Aziz Alam also manages some 'sukkar' and goes out hunting abroad. Ofcourse it is very peaceful and enjoyable to be with children and grand children.

Well my friend, please remember, that both of you have to participate in the golden jubilee celebrations and please keep that in mind while making your travel plans for the next year. Thankeyou for joining us this year.

Mohammad Ahmed and Begum visited Islamabad towards the middle of January. Begum is still teaching and the programme has to be tied up with her vacations. We ran across Ahmed just accidently at the residence of Begum Shahid Hamid. We had gone there to offer our condolences over the demise of Brig Jafar's mother, the son-in-law of late Gen Shahid Hamid. Anyway, it was a pleasure to meet them both and Ahmed very kindly promised to visit my office. A few friends turned up also. So about eight of us got-together to have gup shup which was very nice. We were very happy to meet Mohammad Ahmed. He wrote to me later that he would be unable to make it for the reunion this year but expects to join for the golden jubilee. Well Ahmed please make sure that

-:7:-

both of you are with us next year.

Mian Mahmood was with us for the dinner. He travelled from Kabirwala. His Begum was away to Karachi for a family wedding and could not make it.

Mian Sahib is a great well wisher of the course. He contributes generously and expects that whatever presentation we make to the PMA would be something respectable and would go with the dignity of our course. He believes that our course gave the best performance. On this subject, while he was flying Gen Tikka Khan, some years back, an argument developed, between them. Mehmood disagreed with Tikka that IMA/PMA was the best course. He went on to prove that our course was the best. At the time Abdullah was the DMI, Riaz was perhaps the DMO, Mian Sahib was Comd Div Arty, Babar was Comd Div Arty 23 Div and J.D. Director Arty etc. So Mian Sahib was able to prove to Tikka that with Ist PMA holding all the key appointments they were the best course! Tikka perhaps relented and got convinced.

Mehmood is most concerned about raising funds for the forthcoming presentation to PMA. On his suggestion I got in my office 10 x cartons of cooking oil (Conolla & Sunflower). He gave, these at cost price i.e. Rs 165/- per bottle, and I am to sell at Rs 200/- per bottle, which is Rs 10/- less than the market price. We make a profit of Rs 35/- per bottle. I have managed to sell 8 x cartons so far. When all are sold a profit of a couple of thousand rupees would go to the credit of course funds.

Thankyou Mian Sahib for your kind gesture. But marketing I assure you is not that easy, even at this attractive price. Hope your Begum shall also join us for the next reunion.

The comd Southern Command (Zafar Hashmat) blissfully arrived with his contingent of four from Karachi. He stayed in Arty Officer's mess. It was good to see him together with others every morning from 3rd to 6th of Feb. He says there is some problem with his knees, which have to support a good weight, but I found him alright.

Vahidy is perhaps a little unhappy with him. But I hope like a good Comd, he will manage to win over the loyalties of our friend Vahidy. There is a requirement for more get-togethers of the friends in Karachi and Yusuf Ali has already taken a lead in this respect. At least that is what I feel?

Zafar Hashmat enjoyed his job for under a year with Diwan Sugar Mills and eventually decided to quit. Service with a Seth is an uphill task. So he did well. Good luck Zafar Hashmat and keep the first PMA flag flying high with all seven of you together.

Safdar Butt was with us unaccompanied. We did not like this. Had I known earlier we would have got his lady wife across ahead of him from Lahore. Perhaps next time we would do that.

Safdar is a highly active Comd of the Central Command. He has very kindly taken on the responsibility for getting the designing done of the presentation to be made to

-:8:-

PMA. He is experienced in this respect because he has got made in the past, somewhat similar structures for Tarbela Dam and Karakoram Highway. Hope I am not wrong?

He has been regularly visiting Muzaffar, Naeem and C.M. Anwer the sick coursemates and keeps me posted with the state of their health. He is a Comd with initiative and is sure to come up with some idea that would ever be a reminder of Ist PMA course, to the future generations of cadets at the academy.

On top of that he has very graciously volunteered to raise additional funds depending on the amount of shortfall. Now that is not easy at all.

Well Safdar thankyou for everything. We the coursemates are grateful to you for the keen interest you are taking in our affairs. We admire you for your qualities of leadership! Please make sure that all is peaceful and quiet on the "home front" to enable both of you to be with us for the golden jubilee!

There is no news from Ayaz. There is no response from the telephone number he gave us. It must have changed because we cannot get in touch with him. I shall have to request one of our friends in Islamabad to try and speak to him and enquire about his welfare. If you get this news letter, please acknowledge Ayaz and let me know your contact number.

The great news is that Dildar Rana was amongst us for the anniversary dinner. He looks fine and leads a relaxed life. His main interest is golf which he plays regularly. With all the children settled he has no worries. He is a landlord in that he owns a good size agricultural farm which gives him steady income. Well thankyou Dildar for joining us and hopefully your Begum shall be with you for the next year's get-together. Please remain in touch so that Shigri is not bothered to check if you are still around!

Nayeem unfortunately is not keeping well. He has been visited by Safdar Butt and also lately by Ahmed Jamal. When I enquired from Nayeem towards the end Jan if he would be coming, his answer was that he had no intimation of the reunion programme. Luckily his wife grabbed the telephone and confirmed to me that the circular for the 4th Feb get-together had been received and she promptly informed that Nayeem unfortunately is suffering from a mental condition called dementia. There is also some problem with his legs affecting mobility. But he is on the mend.

We are sorry to miss Nayeem and Begum and pray to Allah to grant Nayeem good health. Ameen. Hopefully both of them will join us next year for the golden jubilee reunion.

Kaleem-ur-Rehman is a very active participant of the course activities. He has been attending the get-togethers very regularly. Whenever I have asked him to join us for a cup of tea, he has very willingly obliged. He was host to the outstation colleagues and they enjoyed his hospitality. He looks alright except that he does not stand straight and has developed a little stoop. I have never heard him complaining about anything. Thankyou Kaleem for your interest in the Ist PMA affairs and paying

-:9:-

your contributions regularly.

Moin Faruqui is enjoying good health now by the grace of God almighty. He has taken on the burden of managing the financial affairs of the course. I for one was never good at figures and am no good at accounting. Moin is well organised and takes good care of our funds. Arty Mess had quoted Rs 282/- per head for the dinner on 4th Feb. Moin had decided the menu. But later Moin and Qadri negotiated very hard to bring the expenses down to about Rs 230/- per head. Moin by himself made all arrangements for the dinner which was enjoyed by all of us. Thankyou Moin for all your help and assistance. He has also taken on the responsibility for selling a few cartons of Mamta oil. This is really great on Moin's part and I am grateful to him for all that he is doing for the course. Well done Moin! Both Moin and Begum joined us for the reunion dinner, which was good of them.

Mohammad Saleh is also a very active member of the course. He got all the photographs made of No 5 Pl. I still have some copies with me. So if anyone is interested they can purchase it for a small amount. He travels frequently to Murree in connection with family commitments. If he is around he is kind enough to drop in my office for a cup of tea. He has some health problem but he is fighting it to remain fit. Well Saleh we wish you good health and please keep up your active association with the course. It was good of both of you to join us for the dinner.

Zair Hussain was kind enough to call me from Karachi. He gave me the details of the discussion held at the house of Yusuf Ali. He has been contributing regularly for which we are grateful to him. He also informed me very promptly about his inability to join us. He was regretfully sorry. Well Zair thankyou for everything but please remember that we want you and Begum to join us for the golden jubilee functions. And remember please - no excuses. You may start planning now. All the best to you and your Begum.

Ijazuddin Khan, the globe trotter was with us. His Begum was with their daughter in England who has had a baby. So I.D. had the ready excuse to take off. He left towards end of Feb for a 2-3 weeks stay in England. He would ofcourse report to Zafar Khan and hopefully together they called on Muzaffar Malik in his hotel. Enjoy yourself I.D. and be good!

It is with profound sorrow that I have to inform you about the sad passing away of our course-mate S.M. Raza. During one of her visits to Islamabad my wife heard the sad news about which she was unsure. I promptly called Sialkot to learn that Raza left us on the 30th of Dec '98. May Allah bless his soul in the heavens above. His devastated wife told me that he had developed some sort of cough. He suffered from heart ailment and diabetes. So he reported to CMH who prescribed him a cough syrup. Next morning he had his usual breakfast and complained of pain while coughing and then he slumped. He was removed to hospital where he was pronounced dead. How depressing.

-:10:-

This is what Jil writes about him - "Raza was basically a very mild and harmless person who never fell foul of anybody - cadets or instructors. He will be remembered as an outstanding hockey player. With his natural long legs and graceful style it was really delightful to watch his artistic play. He was very agile with swift movements, and it seemed that he always put his heart and soul into the game. He dominated the hockey field with flawless expertise and unselfish team spirit. He was a giant of the PMA hockey team. S.M. Raza was by nature somewhat shy, modest and humble. He always shunned limelight and was quite contented as a backbencher. If he was nobody's very best friend he could easily qualify as everybody's No 2. In his own lacklustre manner he was a congenial and popular figure who was liked by all his colleagues"

There was a tragedy in Hasan Durrani's family in that his young son a qualified doctor died in a car crash. This has been a tremendous loss for our friend Durro and our heartfelt sympathies with him. Most of us have visited Peshawar to condole with him and help him share his grief. But naturally he is a terribly shattered father having lost his first born who was very young. We saw the little daughter of the deceased running around with her grandma. It was a heart rending sight. But we human beings are helpless. Nearly all of us have written letters consoling Durro but it is easier said than done. With ailing Durro this shock has really broken him. It has been traumatic.

Well Durro you have to brave it. All of us have to accept our destiny and carry on with our lives under all circumstances. May God bless Omar's soul.

S.M. Akhtar is fine. He visited Karachi end of last year and carried with him the addresses of his course-mates. He did speak to Mufti Wajahat, while in Karachi but they were not able to meet. In my office, whenever we get together somehow the topic of getting around Akhtar to join us, crops up. Most of us are very keen to see him amongst us. In fact it was Ahmed Jamal who said that he would go to Akhtar's house to persuade him to start attending our get-togethers. Well we should know the result soon if Jamal has looked up Akhtar in his house? He tells me he is alright. He went to Peshawar to condole with Durro and is always enquiring about Muzaffar regarding his health problems. Zafar Khan always makes it a point to meet Akhtar, whenever he is in Pakistan. Good Luck Akhtar and please do give us a pleasant surprise sometime!

Tiwana was staying with his son in Multan at the time of our reunion. As a follow up of the circular I called him at Multan and spoke to him and his Begum. His Begum wrote a very polite letter expressing her inability to bring Tiwana over. She herself is not keeping well. Tiwana at that time was having some problem due to reaction of the drugs he is taking. Begum Tiwana conveyed their good wishes to all course-mates and they plan to be with us for the next reunion. Thankyou Begum Tiwana. Our best wishes and prayers for the good health of both of you. We look forward to both of you joining us for the golden jubilee celebrations.

Saeed Malik is flourishing together with his beard. Shigri is highly impressed by his bungalow in Islamabad with sprawling lawns. It is spring time now and his garden

-:11:-

must be in full bloom. His Begum was unwell and therefore Saeed was alone for the reunion. He was found to be most befitting person to recite the 'Dua' praying for Allah's blessings for the departed souls. I heard him asking Jilani and others for a cup of tea at his home, but none was able to make it, I think? Well Saeed, we want you to look after your Begum and please make sure that both of you are available next year. Thankyou for your contribution and the active interest you take in course matters.

I spoke to Abid Hussain who is deeply involved in the affairs of Khidmat Committee at Kohat. His Begum was quite keen to come, but he did not make up his mind. His son-in-law who was with PAF in Chaklala, has since been transferred to Peshawar. So the attraction to travel to Pindi is diminished. Well Abid, we look forward to seeing both of you for the next reunion. After all you owe this to your course-mates.

C.M. Anwer who never missed a get-together is still not fully recovered. He understands everything and has a very clear mind but is unable to communicate and talk very much. He does speak a little. When I visited him last he could walk around in the house with the help of a walking stick. Perhaps Ahmed Jamal was the last one to visit him. Safdar Butt also visits to say Hello to him some time. Well Anwer our prayers for your speedy recovery and hopefully you shall be able to make it next year to be amongst us. Remember that we do miss you!

Jil is what they say head over heels involved with his course-mates. He treats them like close relatives and depends on their advice and moral support. Qazi Sahib perhaps is the closest to Jil and keeps guiding him. Qazi Sahib is highly experienced and is always available for counselling. Besides Saleh, Sardar and few others are his best pals. He was very much with us with his Begum and the two small boys who appear to be growing fast. Begum Jil is always complaining against Jil for lack of attention. I suppose that is a common problem with all of us especially those with young wives! He is happily settled in his newly built house with all modern amenities, in Bahawalnagar. It is a great change from the village life. His office is functioning too well. I regularly get his mail for despatch to different destinations and addresses. He keeps churning out letters on his type-writer. He should have a computer, a word processor and a laser printer to modernise his office, along with 'E' mail facility and then he will be in touch with the whole world. Such equipment will help him put to good use his command over the language for he writes super English.

It appears that poor Jil has never enough money to complete the shopping list of his Begum, when they are visiting Pindi. Well Jil most of us are sailing in the same boat so you do not have to worry. When in Pindi there is a spate of invitations for Jil and he is away for lunches and dinners. Well, keep it up my friend. You are a social bird, and rather a popular one.

Qadri Sahib is very hospitable. He is ever ready to get friends over. He entertained the outstation colleagues with sumptuous meals. He advocates getting together more frequently over meals! He has already extended an invitation for lunch to his house on 6th Mar. He was actively associated with organising our dinner and

-:12:-

managed some reduction in cost. Thankyou Qadri Sahib. His lady wife was not amongst us for the reunion. Perhaps she did not feel upto it. Qadri Sahib is very keen that on the occasion of Golden Jubilee, we should also distribute some momento for each one of us to keep at home. He is getting the prototype of a shield ready with everybody's name on it. Nothing very big but a good souvenir to keep at home. Not very expensive either.

Well Qadri Sahib I am still waiting for the sample of the finished product. Please hurry up!

Zaman Hamid together with his Begum joined us. He looks saintly and impressive with his shiny silver beard. But amongst friends he is totally relaxed and feels free to laugh and joke. He is a very enjoyable company and one can never feel bored with him around. Thankyou Zaman and Begum for being with us and look forward to seeing you both next year as well. Jovial friends like you definitely make life worth living. Thankyou for your contribution.

Kreashi is a great guy. He was present at the dinner. But his wife was unable to join us. I believe he took good care of Dildar Rana, who visited him regularly during the short stay in Islamabad!

Kreashi has sketched caricatures depicting some of our friends with typical characteristics in the academy. It is all in good humour and should be taken in a light vein. The paper is being circulated for you to guess and name the character. First one with all answers correct, would get a prize from Moin Faruqui! So please hurry up and send your answers back. The DS solution ofcourse is with Kreashi whose judgement would be final.

Kreashi's bright young daughter has finally proceeded to the USA for higher studies. I am quite impressed with the artistic talent of this child and am certain that she would do well in future. Kreashis are likely to leave for the USA sometime in early March to look up their children.

Well Kreashi we want both yourself and Begum to be with us for celebrating golden jubilee. Have a good and enjoyable trip to States.

Akhtar Rizwani is residing in Sarai Alamgir. I am in touch with him through correspondence. Despite my best efforts I have not been able to speak to him on telephone. Rizwani writes that being a first cousin of Zial Haq he was showered lot of affection by the late General. While in Quetta Rizwani stayed with Ziaul Haq in his house. He wanted Rizwani to do well in the Army and would often breakdown wondering at Rizwani's state of disenchantment with worldly affairs. He writes that he has taken on a mission, which demands that he should stay away from his children, relatives and friends. He says that he is seeking what is called a "Spiritual Path", which keeps him extremely busy and occupied. He does not get time even to get out of the house. He says that his inability to participate in the reunion should not be construed to mean that he has forgotten his course-mates. He is very appreciative of the Eid greetings he received from Safdar Butt.

-:13:-

Well Rizwani we wish you God speed in your pursuits and may you achieve 'NIRVANA' or whatever you are striving for. Please do not remain cut off from us for too long because we are all nearing the fag end of our lives. We wish to see you amongst us and hope that such is ordained by Allah? Good luck to you.

Ejaz Ahmed Vahidy is a good lad. He remains in touch through correspondence, and rarely I speak to him on telephone. There was one such occasion when I had to report back to him about his pension dues - a task he had assigned to me. He wrote a letter of thanks on 2nd Feb, and mentioned that he had no news about the schedule of C-130 flight. Well that indeed looked strange?

I had telephoned Zafar Hashmat and not finding him at house the C-130 flight timings were conveyed to Yusuf Ali with the request that the same are passed on to all friends in Karachi. Yusuf obviously spoke to Zafar Hashmat for doing the needful. When I showed Vahidy's letter to Zafar Hashmat, he confirmed to my astonishment that he never informed Vahidy and is not willing to speak to him. Now that is sad, to say the least. I would like to urge the friends in Karachi to try and clear any misunderstanding between Zafar Hashmat and Vahidy who I guess are not on the best of terms. I appeal to all the friends in Karachi to please sort it out, this is imperative. At our age all this looks very odd and I hope you agree with me? Vahidy Sahib please remember that you have to be here with us next year, come rain or sunshine. Please make that absolutely sure.

Qazi Mahmud-ur-Rehman is stone deaf. The only means of communication with him is writing slips of paper. Otherwise he is fit and fine. He has changed his house. He tells me that his son is building a house in Chaklala III. Eventually he would shift there when the house is ready. Otherwise Qazi Sahib is very active, a frequent visitor to my office. He is very social and likes to talk to everyone, even though he cannot hear a thing!

Keep it up Qazi Sahib and keep performing the duties of the god-father to Jil. You are a good man.

Now to satisfy your curiosity about the presentation to be made to PMA, let me trace back the developments.

As explained by Saadat in his briefing before dinner, he heads a committee to liaise with Comdt P.M.A for the proposed presentation. I assist him as a member. we have had a preliminary meeting with the Comdt on this subject. His reaction was very positive, and infact enthusiastic which negated our apprehensions in this regard. He is of the view that First PMA is First PMA and there will never be a First PMA again. So we should have an outdoor structure rather than any trophy etc which fade into oblivion with the passage of time. He very kindly offered some granite for this purpose which PMA has got. With this satisfactorily encouraging meeting we returned to further develop the concept. The subject was discussed with Safdar who seemed to have a clearer vision of such a structure which will have our names engraved on it. Safdar very kindly, on the basis of his past experience, is having the conceptual sketch

-:14:-

developed with the help of National College of Arts, an institution of excellence in this field. When that is ready another meeting will be held with Comdt PMA Kakul to firm up the idea, and decide the location which would have to be prominent. That eventually will lead to making the construction drawings and so on. We are conscious of the fact that we are a Nishan-e-Haider course with more than two SJs won by our colleagues. You shall be kept informed of the progress in this regard. Safdar is working on something which PMA will be proud of and at the same time it would uphold the dignity of our course. In view of his experience he has a better idea of expenses involved and that is why he has undertaken to raise the funds for making up any short falls beyond Rs 200,000. That is really great on his part. Thankyou Dr Sahib for your efforts.

We wish to convey to all those who have made contributions that you have indeed been very kind and large hearted. With the present day high cost of living and saddled with obligations towards children and grand children it is not so easy to spare your hard earned money just for the good name of your course. We are grateful to you and fully appreciate your sacrifice. Please be assured that every penny of yours is being taken good care of and anyone of you is welcome to scrutinize accounts and give suggestions.

But please remember that we have embarked on a project, for posterity to ever remember the good name of our course. Your generous contributions are therefore welcome, and shall be cherished.

In the end please allow me to wish all our course-mates and their families a very healthy and peaceful long life with plenty of contentment.

May Allah bless you all.

With my profound regards.

Encl : Two.

04 MARCH '99

RAWALPINDI

Very sincerely yours,



AZHAR ALI SYED

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Chapter 16

Reunion function held at the Artillery Mess Rawalpindi on 4th February 2013



Akhtar in Conversation with Omera Mahmud



Mahmud with his Instructors Colonel S.G. Mehdi and Major General Farman Ali on his Right and Left



*Mahmud, Azhar, Safdar, Moin and Babar all
in Different Moods and Occupation*



*Safdar and Mahmud Examining
Something of Great Interest*



Azhar, Muzaffar and Akhtar enjoying their Dinner

A Group Photograph of those who attended the Get-Together

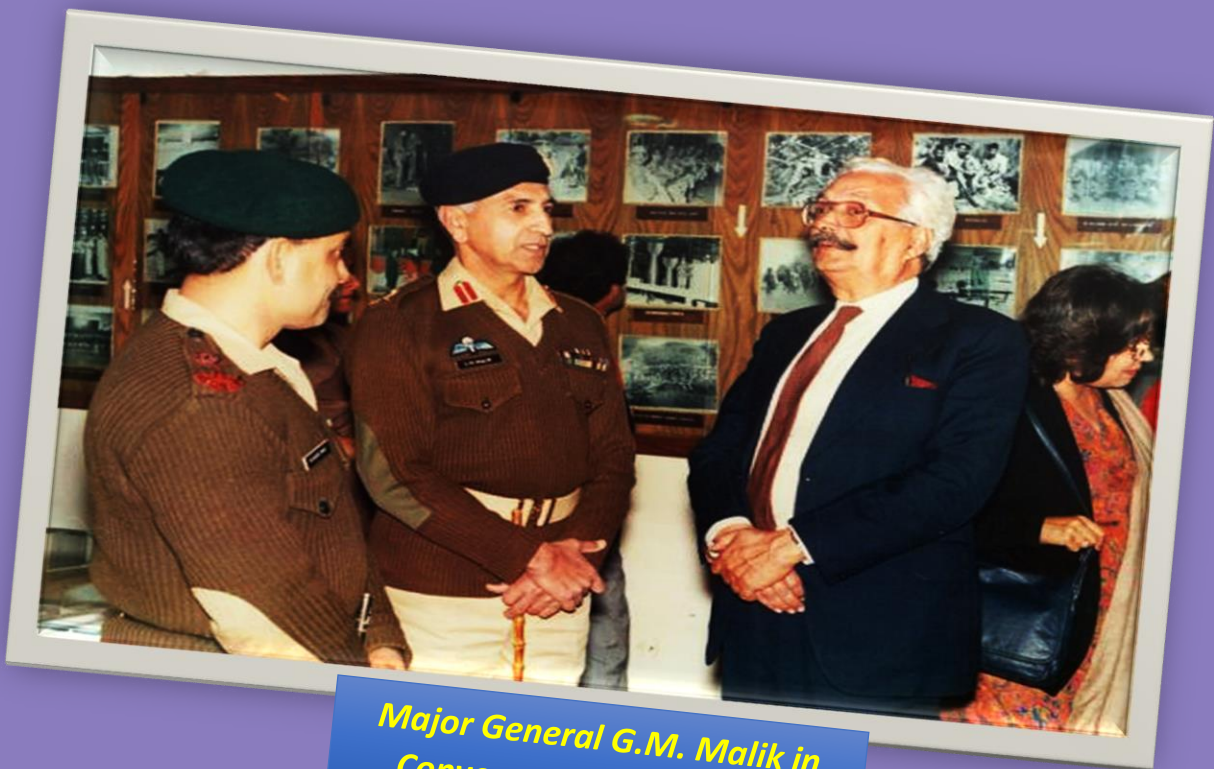


Chapter 17

The Re-union at PMA Kakul



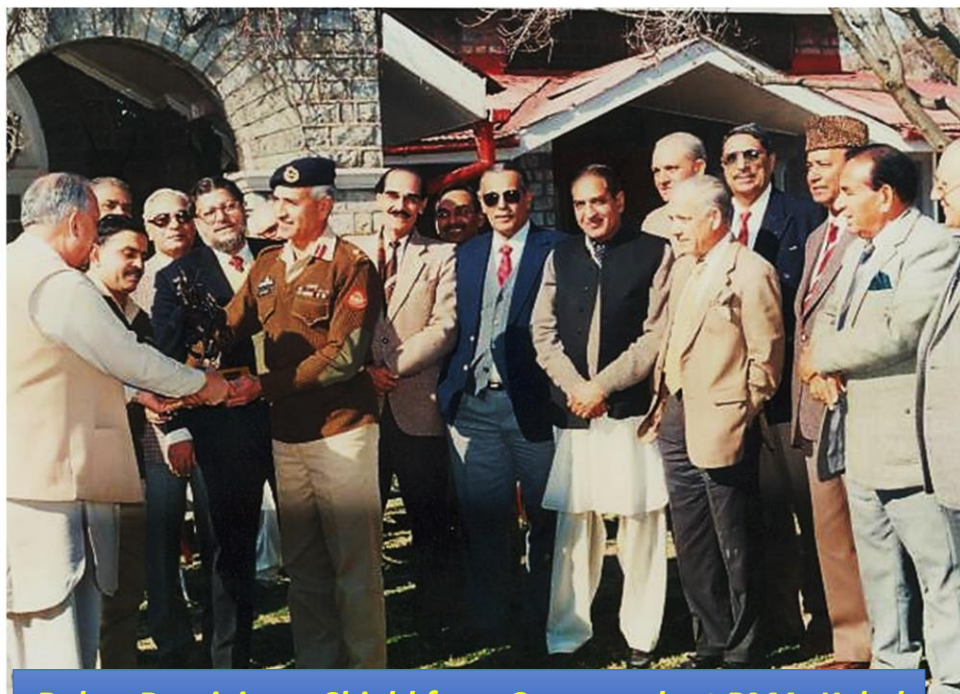
Major General Ghulam Muhammad Malik Receiving his Guests.



*Major General G.M. Malik in
Conversation with Saadat*



Major General G.M. Malik Receiving his Guests



Babar Receiving a Shield from Commandant PMA, Kakul



Major General G.M.Malik addressing some Humorous Remarks to his Guests



*Formally addressing all those from 1st PMA
Long Course who came for the Re-union*

A Group Photograph of all the Participants with Commandant PMA, Kakul, Major General G.M.Malik



Chapter 18

Golden Jubilee Celebration at, Kakul...

The Golden Jubilee that we celebrated on 4 February, 2000 will remain the most memorable of them all. We are grateful to the authorities of PMA to allow us to erect a monument in celebration of the occasion of 50 years of our graduation. In the raising of this monument, it was Safdar Butt who played the most active role. He managed to arrange the necessary donations of the funds through his personal efforts. In the designing of the monument, its completion at 502 Workshop and its erection at the site so chosen at PMA, Lieutenant General M. Saadat Ali and Major General Azhar Ali Syed also played a major role. Through the personal contribution of their time and all necessary supervision and co-ordination effort that it needed, the task of setting up this monument was successfully accomplished and was ready for the formal inauguration ceremony on 4 February, 2000.

The function got off to a very smooth start and 23 of our course mates arrived at PMA with their families. The Nanda Bus service was organized and this time Azhar Ali Syed chipped in to help and remember the old traditional efforts of Mahmud Qazi. The Commandant PMA wanted very much to receive us himself, but he was called to GHQ for some important meeting. In his absence the Deputy Commandant, Brigadier Waseem Ahmad Ashraf, admirably played host to us. It was a simple ceremony but had all the trappings of grace, pageantry, solemnity and grandeur which were befitting the occasion.

After the inauguration ceremony was over, we were all conducted on a round of visit to the PMA. The sight of old barracks and classrooms brought back the memories of the days spent here in our early career. Later we visited the Museum which is an excellent addition to the imposing new buildings and structures that cover the skylines of PMA as it looks to-day; a big contrast from our times! This important day and occasion was rounded off by a lunch hosted at the Officers Mess PMA Kakul. The thoughts that prevailed were to imagine who all will be privileged to attend the Diamond Jubilee function.



Brigadier Wasim Ahmad Ashraf, Deputy Commandant PMA, Addressing us at Golden Jubilee Function



The Unveiling of the Golden Jubilee Monument

GOLDEN JUBILEE

04 FEB 2000

1ST PMA COURSE 20 JAN 1948 04 FEB 1950

MAJ RAJA AZIZ BHATTI NISHAN E HAIDER
BRIG LUQMAN MAHMOOD
LT COL MALIK MOHAMMAD SHARIF
LT COL MUHAMMAD ZAFAR KHAN
BRIG FAQIR MOHAMMAD KHAN
LT COL MOHAMMAD AKRAM
MAJ GUL HAYAT
MAJ GEN ABDULLAH KHAN MALIK
LT GEN AHMED JAMAL KHAN
BRIG IQBAL MEHDI SHAH

MAJ YUSUF ALI
BRIG SARDAR AHMAD
LT GEN MOHAMMAD SAADAT ALI
CAPT MOHAMMAD IQBAL HUSSAIN
BRIG FAZAL UR RAHEEM
COL ABDUL WADOOD KHAN
COL HAMID HUSSAIN SHIGRI
LT GEN JAHAN DAD KHAN
BRIG MUZAFFAR KHAN MALIK
LT COL MUFTI WAJAHAT HUSSAIN
MAJ GEN NASIR ULLAH KHAN BABAR Hst SJ & BAR
BRIG HAYAT ULLAH
LT COL ISHTIAQ ALI SHAH GILANI
MAJ MIR AZIZ ALAM KHAN
BRIG MOHAMMAD AHMED SJ
BRIG MIAN MUHAMMAD MAHMUD

MAJ GEN MOHAMMAD RIAZ KHAN
LT ZAFAR HASHMAT
BRIG JAHANZEB KHAN BANGASH
MAJ GEN AZHAR ALI SYED
LT GEN DR GHULAM SAFFDAR BUTT
LT COL MOHAMMAD AYAZ KHAN WAZIR
BRIG DILDAR RANA
CAPT ASAD KHAN
BRIG MIR ABDUL NAEEM
BRIG KALEEM UR RAHMAN MIRZA
BRIG MUINUDDIN AHMAD FARUQUI
LT COL AZIZ UR RAHMAN
LT COL ASIF ALI
COL MOHAMMAD SALEH
BRIG SYED ZAIR HUSSAIN
BRIG IJAZ UD DIN KHAN
MAJ NAZIR UL HAQ SHEIKH
LT COL SYED MOHAMMAD RAZA

LT COL MOHAMMAD HUSSAN KHAN DURRANI
LT COL SHEIKH MOHAMMAD AKHTAR
MAJ SYED SAJJAD HAIDER
LT COL MOHAMMAD HUSAIN TIWANA
LT COL MOHAMMAD SAEED MALIK
LT COL SYED ABID HUSSAIN
COL CHOWDHRY MOHAMMAD ANWER
MAJ SALIS AHMAD QURESHI
CAPT ASGHAR ALI JILANI
LT COL HABIB UR RAHMAN QADRI
MAJ MAHMUD UZ ZAMAN HAMID
MAJ MAHMUD AHMED KREASHI
LT COL MOHAMMAD AKHTAR RIZWANI
LT RAJAB ABDUL HUSSEIN VAZIR
MAJ GEN REHMAT ALI SHAH
MAJ EJAZ AHMED VAHIDY
MAJ QAZI MAHMUD UR RAHMAN
MAJ SARDAR MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN SHIKOH



A Group Photograph of the Participants of 1st PMA Long Course



Dua being offered after the Un-Veiling of the Monument



Begum Omera Mahmud is being received by Begum Asim Ashraf Ahmad, wife of the Deputy Commandant PMA, Kakul

DAWN, Thu 10 Feb 2000

PMA celebrates golden jubilee of 1st course

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9: The veterans of the First Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Long Course celebrated the golden jubilee of their commission at the academy here, said an Inter-Services Public Relations announcement.

Brig (retd) Sardar Ahmed, speaking on behalf of his batch, said "long ago the torch was passed to a new generation and now a new century ushers in a younger generation in this process of never-ending turnover and change. When we reflect we find that our course, being the 1st PMA course, saw the country, the nation and the PMA in their infancy, and now by the grace of Almighty Allah they are all grown up trees."

Then a one-minute silence was observed and fateha offered as a mark of respect for the departed souls who had been a part of the course. Brig Ahmed also paid rich tributes to his course-mate, Maj Raja Aziz Bhatti (Shaheed) winner of the sword-of-honour, the Norman gold medal and recipient of the Nishan-i-Haider during the 1965 war.

The course coordinator, Maj-Gen (retd) Azhar Syed briefly highlighted the achievements of the First PMA Long Course.

Earlier, around 30 officers assembled at the Artillery Officers' Mess, Rawalpindi and drove to the PMA. On arrival, the deputy commandant of the PMA, Brig Waseem Ahmed Ashraf, gave them a warm reception and welcomed them to the course.

He told the veterans that the Academy was still following the footprints and same high standards which had been set in the First PMA course.

A monument was also unveiled by the senior officer of the course, Brig Luqman Mahmood, which had been established in the memory of the First PMA Long Course. It had the names of the participants of the First PMA Long Course inscribed on it.

The names of the officers who had graduated in 1950 are: Maj

Raja Aziz Bhatti (Nishan-i-Haider), Brig Luqman Mahmood, Lt-Col Malik Mohammad Sharif, Lt-Col Muhammad Zafar Khan, Brig Faqir Mohammad Khan, Lt-Col Mohammad Akram, Lt-Col Gul Hayat, Maj-Gen Abdullah Khan Malik, Lt-Gen Ahmad Jamal Khan, Brig Iqbal Mehdi Shah, Maj Yousaf Ali, Brig Sardar Ahmad, Lt-Gen Mohammad Saadat Ali, Maj Mohammad Iqbal Hussain, Brig Mian Fazalur Raheem, Brig Abdul Wadood Khan, Col Hamid Hussain Shigri, Lt-Gen Jahan Dad Khan, Brig Muzaffar Khan Malik, Col Mufti Wajahat Hussain, Maj-Gen Nasirullah Khan Babar, Brig Hayatullah, Lt-Col Ishtiaq Ali Shah Gilani, Maj Mir Aziz Alam Khan, Brig Mohammad Ahmad, Brig Mian Muhammad Mahmud, Maj-Gen Mohammad Riaz Khan, Maj Zafar Hashmat, Brig Jahanzeb Khan Bangash, Maj-Gen Azhar Ali Syed, Lt-Gen Ghulam Safdar Butt, Lt-Col Mohmmad Ayaz Khan Wazir, Brig Dildar Rana, Maj Asad Khan, Brig Mir Abdul Nayeem, Brig Kaleemur Rehman Mirza, Brig Muinuddin Ahmad Faruqi, Lt-Col Azizur Rehman, Lt-Col Asif Ali, Col Mohammad Saleh, Brig Syed Nazir Hussain, Brig Ijazuddin Khan, Maj Nazirul Haq Sheikh, Lt-Col Syed Mohammad Raza, Lt-Col Mohammad Hussain Khan Durrani, Lt-Col Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar, Lt-Col Syed Sajjad Haider, Lt-Col Mohammad Husain Tiwana, Col Mohammad Saeed Malik, Lt-Col Syed Abid Hussain, Col Chowdhry Mohammad Anwer, Maj Salis Ahmed Qureshi, Capt Asghar Ali Jilani, Lt-Col Habibur Rehman Qadri, Lt-Col Mahmuduz Zaman Hamid, Maj Mahmud Ahmed Kureshi, Lt-Col Mohammad Akhtar Rizwan, Capt Rajab Abdul Hussain Vazir, Maj-Gen Rehmat Ali Shah, Maj Ejaz Ahmad Vahidy, Maj Qazi Mahmudur Rehman and Maj Sardar Mohammad Hussain Shikoh.

They then went round various sections and departments of the academy and also visited its museum.

NEWS LETTER - FIRST PMA LONG COURSE53RD REUNION AT ISLAMABAD CLUB

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 28 DEC 2002, the 53rd passing out anniversary of the course, was celebrated over a luncheon party, held at 12.30 hrs on Tuesday 04 Feb 2003 at the VIP Room of Islamabad Club, Islamabad.

Ijazuddin Khan who had very kindly accepted the responsibility to organise this lunch, made an excellent job of it. A total of 46 attended and the breakdown is as under

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Course - mates attended | 19 |
| Wives attended | 13 |
| Children & grand children | 14 |
| TOTAL | 46 |

Every one was full of praise, for the quality of food which was in plenty. The fish was most delicious of all. So much so, that some ladies even asked for the recipe to prepare identical fish at home.

We got together at 12.30 in the afternoon and dispersed after 3 P.M. It was an enjoyable get together.

LUQMAN MAHMOOD

Perhaps all of you already know, that Luqman passed away in the AFIC at M.H. RAWALPINDI in the wee hours of 26th Feb 2002. He was buried at the Army Grave Yard, Race Course Road, Rawalpindi. The funeral was attended by a few of our course-mates and Luqman's close relatives except his wife who was unwell at Karachi. A floral wreath on behalf of the course was laid on his grave, besides half a dozen other wreaths laid by local Comd, Regimental Centre etc.

According to his sister, he was not well and would not take doctor's advice seriously, nor take the medicines as prescribed. He was, (immediately before his death) staying with his brother in Islamabad. A few days before his demise, he was hospitalised in AFIC but stayed for night or so and was discharged, later. Reportedly he was chain smoking all the time. He was again admitted perhaps on 24th Feb '02 and expired at 0215 Hrs on 26th Feb '02. The cause of death recorded by AFIC on the Death Certificate is "ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE" accompanied by HYPERTENSION & DIABETES MELLITUS.

Papers were processed for the payment of pension to his widow Saeeda Bano and the action completed. I was able to speak to Saeeda Bano on telephone regarding the pension matters. She was not keeping good health. When I asked her bank account number, her reply was that she did not have a bank account. On a question as to how the amount would be remitted by CMA, her answer was that she may be paid by money

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order ! I was surprised at the simplicity of our ladies. Her brother Zafar Iqbal who is Chairman of National Oil Refinery, handled the affairs there after. Unfortunately Mrs Luqman also passed away in Oct 2002 only months after Luqman had died.

Zafar Iqbal rang me up to give the sad news. Later there was a problem of succession in the court of law. Luqman's had no issue and the relatives had to obtain a succession certificate to sort out the property affairs of the deceased couple.

I was asked by Zafar Iqbal to obtain Luqman's death certificate from Cantt Board Rawalpindi, because Sind court would not accept the death certificate issued by AFIC, in deciding the succession case. This was arranged and finally the end of Feb 2003, I was able to send the requisite certificate.

In the beginning Yusuf Ali contacted me about expediting the pension affairs of Luqman's widow but subsequently, Zafar Iqbal was speaking to me directly.

ZAFAR KHAN

Zafar Khan is now the course leader of our course. Last winter Dec 02/JAN 03 he resumed his skiing holiday after a gap of two years due to his problem, that required the replacement of a heart valve. He is doing fine. His sister, the ambassador of Pakistan in Lisbon was with him. His elder brother from Pakistan also joined him. It was good fun according to Zafar Khan. He normally visits Pakistan twice a year. Just before winter during the month of NOV and just before summer at the end of March. He is in good health and keeping well. He enjoyed a ten days visit to Lisbon in the beginning of March '03.

He arrived in Pakistan on 31 March. He visited Babar in Peshawar, looked up Fazle Raheem in hospital and later was also visiting J.D. after his accident.

He left for London on 13 April after a stay of fortnight. He had an occasion to meet Shigri, Moin Faruqui and S.M. Akhtar in my office. He also met Saadat during this short stay.

We wish him well and hopefully Babar and myself will see him in London early next July.

FAQIR MOHAMMAD

Faqira, his lady wife together with their sons attended the anniversary function. It was a pleasure to have them all.

Faqira also has some health problems. The intestines are giving some trouble and he has given up all kinds of meat. He visits my office, when he and his

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wife are around for medical consultations with the doctors of military hospitals.

The latest is that he has packed up from Abbotabad and is finally going to live in Islamabad, at least for the time being.

His address and phone numbers are as under.

House No. 25-A, street No. 18, F-7/2, ISLAMABAD,

Tel : 2826030 Mobile : 0303 - 6956353

We wish them both good health and welcome them to the Capital City. When they are going to shift again and where is any body's guess?

YUSUF ALI

YUSUF ALI has been burdened with responsibilities of Southern Command after the sad demise of Zafar Hashmat who passed away on 18 Feb 2002.

No one was able to join us from Karachi for the lunch on 4th Feb - the 53rd anniversary. Of course we missed all of them, in particular Zafar Hashmat.

It was suggested by me that the Karachiites hold their own get together on the 4th of Feb at Karachi. But it appears that there was not much enthusiasm amongst our friends residing at Karachi for taking the trouble of assembling to celebrate the occasion. Yusuf Ali is at it.

Yusuf Ali together with his family are hale and hearty. Last I spoke to him was on the 9th of March. He mentioned about Aziz Alam's health problem and had visited him to enquire about his condition.

SARDAR AHMED

Sardar was able to join us to celebrate the 53rd passing out anniversary. His wife was not able to make it. He looks well and is busy with the association of foreign office people. He was seen on the TV screen and heard on the radio in the past but for sometime now, he is not very active in this field. He devotes lot of time to social welfare organisations like "AL - NOOR" established for humanitarian welfare - an NGO with branches.

SAADAT ALI

Saadat and his begum, both, enthusiastically joined the luncheon get-together on the 4th of Feb at Islamabad club. Most of us are not in favour of holding dinners for the simple reason, that at this advance age it is a hassle to get out at night. Moreover there is a problem of driving at night and hardly any one is keeping a driver. It also gets very cold and dismal at night and there is always a fear of exposure on a chilly winter night.

Saadat has a strong interest in keeping the first PMA association alive and kicking. His advice is candid, down to earth and highly realistic. He shuns kite flying and is a strict believer in managing within means. To supplement his income to meet the ever increasing cost of living, he has built a beautiful annex

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rented out to foreigners. So, the sun room and lawn are gone and drive way to the entrance of his house has become narrow. By the grace of Allah he enjoys reasonably good health and let us pray that he and his begum continue that way.

FAZAL-UR-RAHEEM

Mian sahib has not been keeping good health. He has several health problems which require him to visit hospital daily for one reason or the other. Despite his poor health, both he and his begum graced the occasion for the anniversary lunch.

In his present physical condition, he is unable to climb the steps. Last time he came down - stairs in his car to pay his contribution. He walks with a stick now, because he does not feel very strong and stable on his feet. I sat in his car with him and availed the opportunity for having a long chat with him. He gave me the complete details of his ailments for which he is getting regular treatment.

It was a pleasure to have them both with us and we wish him speedy recovery and good health. He could not join us for meeting Jil because he was hospitalised but later discharged on 27 March.

HAMID HUSSAIN SHIGRI

Shigri is the live wire of our course. He likes to keep himself posted with the latest about our colleagues. He calls frequently on telephone, always seeking for news about the course-mates. He joined us for lunch but unfortunately his begum was unable to attend. On Saleh's son's wedding; I hear begum Faruqi tried to persuade begum Shigri that she should attend the course annual function. But apparently begum Shigri has some reservations about meeting only once a year. May be Shigri can do something about it? But I have my doubts!

JAHANDAD KHAN

A noble sole, who has rendered meritorious services to the people of Pakistan in est-ablishing an eye hospital, 'Al Shifa Trust' at Rawalpindi, and the second one at Sukkar. He will start the construction of a third eye hospital at Kohat, sometime next month. He has plans for a 4th hospital at Quetta.

He runs a social welfare centre at Attock in his native place, which is managing a girl's school, a boy's school and a Vocational Centre, all providing free education and training to poor people. The Eye hospitals provide free eye care to poor and needy. The patient has just to produce the Zakat certificate and he is taken care of.

Jahandad deserves commendation from all, for being a philanthropist and making great contribution for the benefit of poor people at large.

J.D. has been honoured with HILAL -E- IMTIAZ according to the honours list, in recognition of his public services and was awarded the same by the President in an investiture ceremony held on 23rd March. Well done J.D. I read in the paper on 9 April, that J.D. has been appointed Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

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Later in the morning I learnt that J.D.'s car had an accident on 8th April somewhere between Lawrencepur and Hasanabdal. Zafar and myself visited him in hospital in the afternoon on the 9th April. His room was flooded with bouquets of flowers and baskets of fruit. He underwent surgery on the 10th morning and was shifted to ITC. For compound fractures the latest technology is to put a rod inside the bone and fix screws from outside, putting together the pieces.

He was much more cheerful after the surgery. On 16th March, on my visit I found him sitting in a wheel chair. He was already seized with the business of guiding and directing the staff for overcoming the problems encountered in running different organisations. Insha Allah he shall be soon on his feet. His admirers keep sending him heaps of flowers and fruit. He has an unending stream of visitors. Good luck J.D and get well soon.

MUFTI WAJAHAT HUSSAIN

Since I had no news about Wajahat, I decided to call him at Karachi and spoke to him. He is hale and hearty together with Begum. In fact he told me that, both of them had planned a trip to USA where his daughter lives. She was pressing them for paying a visit. In this connection he had to get Visa for USA for his wife. They were called for interview by the embassy, but before his wife could appear for the interview, a red alert was declared at the US Embassy in Islamabad and they had to return to Karachi without securing Visa.

He was telling me that he is after Yusuf Ali for organising a get together for the 53rd passing out anniversary but so far they have not been able to meet.

Well good luck to Karachiites for that.

NASIRULLAH BABAR

Babar and his begum were both with us at the Islamabad club. I must say that Babar always makes special effort to attend the reunion. They made a day trip to Islamabad for the purpose and all of us were happy to see them in good health and flourishing. I hear Babar hosted a fabulous lunch at his house in Peshawar for Zafar Khan.

HAYATULLAH

This time Hayatullah and Begum did not turn up for the reunion. In the past they have been extremely regular. So I was a little concerned and telephoned Hayatullah on perhaps the 5th or 6th of Feb. Luckily I was able to speak to him. He explained, that the reason for his absence was attending a Jirga because some murder had taken place. I was told that no member of Jirga is allowed to leave till the final decision is reached. He returned home only on the 5th of Feb perhaps and that was the reason for absence. Otherwise both of them are in good health and doing well.

AZIZ ALAM

It was through Yusuf Ali that I learnt about Aziz Alam not being well. So I called him to get the details of his problem. According to Aziz Alam, he is suffering from

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Ortho - arthiritis. The space between the segments (vertebrae) of his back bone near the neck, has reduced. This causes him lot of pain and he is on pain killers because there is no other treatment possible. He explained that it hurts him very badly if he tries to turn his neck which he is unable to do. I was very sorry to hear this. Our prayers are for him to get well soon and live a comfortable life. His daughter residing in the USA has planned a visit to Karachi to attend a family wedding in June. Aziz told me that the daughter is adamant that both of them accompany her to USA when she returns.

Well, best of luck to you both. USA is your second home with all the children settled there. With this physical condition I wonder if you can pursue your passion for 'Shikar'. I am sure you would be going out for a shoot even in States, for this is an addiction with you.

Aziz Alam was not able to join us on 4th of Feb and we missed them both.

MOHAMMED AHMED

Normally I get the news about Ahmed from Moin Faruqi. They are in communication by 'E' mail.

Moin told me that Ahmed was going to Dubai end of January. That is the time I was planning to be in Dubai also. So I gave my contact telephone in Dubai to Moin, which apparently Ahmed did not get. Ahmeds were visiting their son in Abu Dhabi. The son is working as a computer engineer. Strangely enough both of us were there at the same time but never got in touch with each other.

Ahmed is planning to stay put in Goth Machi for as long as his wife is working, which would be another 4 years or so. Thereafter he plans to settle in Karachi or Islamabad. He has a house in Karachi but would like to settle in Islamabad if possible. He loves Islamabad.

Good luck to you both and hope you are able to make it for the 4th Feb get together next time.

MIAN MAHMOOD

Mian Sahib has shifted his headquarter from Kabirwala to Lahore. Mostly his son looks after the oil plant in Kabirwala. Apparently a good market for his Canolla Oil is developing in Lahore.

He belongs to Lahore and has the opportunity to revive old contacts since school and college days. But his main residence is ofcourse Westridge Rawalpindi. These days he is very busy writing the history of 1965 war, particularly the role played by the army aviation. He is circulating a brief text to all the friends who participated in the war.

Faqir Mohammed remarked that the write up gives the impression as if the war was fought entirely by the army aviation. I cannot comment on this, whether the

NEWS LETTER- FIRST PMA LONG COURSE
SUBJECT- DIAMOND JUBILEE 4TH FEB 2010

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 10 JAN 2009, the 59th passing out anniversary of the course was celebrated over a luncheon party held at 12.30 hrs on wednesday 04 Feb 2009 at Islamabad Club Islamabad.

A total of 30 people attended including 14 Course-mates listed below, wives, children and grand children.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| JAHANDAD KHAN | MOHAMMED AHMED | S.M.AKHTAR |
| HAYATULLAH | KALEEM-UR-REHMAN | SAEED MALIK |
| MIAN MAHMUD | MUHAMMED SALEH | M.A. KRESHI |
| AYAZ KHAN WAZIR | IJAZ-UD-DIN | ZAMAN HAMID |
| M.R. QAZI | AZHAR ALI SYED | |

The subject of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Course, falling on 4th Feb 2010 was discussed. Drawings of the proposed monument were circulated. It transpired that we shall run short of money. My contention was that securing contributions was difficult. However Mian Mahmud maintained that if need be, we shall be able to raise the requisite amount and the Course mates would generously contribute.

A committee constituted as under had to visit PMA KAKUL and discuss the location of the monument and related issues.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| AZHAR ALI SYED | MOHAMMED AHMED | MIAN MAHMUD |
| IJAZ-UD-DIN | SAEED MALIK. | |

only four of us visited PMA on 23 Jan 09. Saeed Malik was unable to make it. The Course mates were briefed regarding this visit. The majority voted against the location suggested by PMA i.e. next to the museum. Subsequently the subject was discussed with Lt Col Nadeem Comd Ist Bn. He in turn spoke to the Comdt, who has already agreed that we make a choice of location inside the gate of PMA. Col Nadeem was of the view that it should be on the left of road within the Ist Bn area, just short of the old Barrack preserved as a museum. But the final decision is to be made by Mian Mahmud and party when they visit PMA next

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Mian Mahmud opposed the manufacture of Diamond from onyx. He was firmly of the view that the Diamond should be made of Zircon preferably, otherwise of crystal. Lot of enquiries were made from China with the active assistance of Akbar Mehmood (Mian Mahmud's son) who has an office in Shanghai. With Akbar's assistance we were able to locate a Company, who quoted reasonable price. Zircon being very expensive was ruled out and finally we settled on crystal. Kaleem's advice in this regard has been of immense value for he is an expert in this field.

Finally the order has been placed on the Chinese firm. Who will manufacture and deliver the following three pieces, to our Military Attache in Peking. Sketch of the monument is attached.

40 CM DIA CRYSTAL

CRYSTAL BASE

CRYSTAL COVER

The total cost would be Rs 400,000. An advance of Rs 200,000. has already been paid. The balance amount will be paid on delivery. As you are aware, we have a total Rs 350000. out of which Rs 50,000 have been saved for overhead expenses for the Diamond Jubilee ceremony. Now we have a balance of Rs 100,000. only whereas, we have to pay out Rs 200,000 to the manufacturer. Therefore there is a requirement to raise at least Rs 100,000.

Early this year through the kind courtesy of Kaleem, a meeting in my office was arranged with MR Ihsan Ullah Chairman and CEO of Pakistan Stone Development Company. He was shown the drawing of the solid black granite block which was required to be the base on which the Diamond would sit. After our discussion over a cup of tea, he agreed to supply the granite block free of cost. It would otherwise cost at least Rs 150,000. Thanks to Kaleem for that favour.

I approached Gen Shakeel who has been taking keen interest in our project. He tells me that the foundation of the monument would be provided by PMA Kakul free of any cost. We already have the drawings of the foundation. Thanks to Gen Shakeel.

Again I approached Gen Shakeel for the transportation of the three pieces from China. The total weight of the three items packed would be around 90 KG. There was also the question of customs clearance on arrival at Islamabad? Hopefully Gen Shakeel will tie up with the Military Attache Brig Naveed, with whom I have also spoken.

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His address and particulars have been given to Akbar Mehmud, as well. I shall be proceeding abroad on 12 July for a period of 3 months, and Mian Mahmud will look after every thing in my absence.

Now coming to the sensitive subject of raising Rs 100,000. I know that not every one of us can spare money because of financial limitations. But let me request those who can contribute something that we need your financial assistance badly. Whatever your contribution, would be most welcome. Therefore please be generous, for your help is the key to the success for this project. which would enhance the prestige of first PMA and would help us build a monument to be admired by the generation of cadets to come.

Please send your contribution by cheque in the name of Brig Mohammed Ahmed at the address given below.

I am pleased to report to you, that the Golden Jubilee monument built with the dedicated efforts of Saadat and timely financial assistance organised by Safdar , is in excellent shape. Credit goes to the commandant and PMA staff, for its maintenance.

I wish you and your family a good health and long life and may Allah bless you all.

Looking forward to your early response.

Thanking you.

AZHAR ALI SYED
COURSE COORDINATOR

RAWALPINDI

04 Jul 2009

NEWS LETTER

In accordance with the contents of the circular dated 31 Dec 2010, the 61st passing out anniversary of the course was celebrated over a Brunch held on 04 Feb 2011, at the Garrison Officer's Mess (old pindi club) Rawalpindi.

The following were able to attend

- a. Faqir M. Khan and Begum with 2 & daughters
- b. Kamal Abdullah S/O Abdullah Malik
- c. Faheem Sardar S/o Sardar Ahmed
- d. Shehla Babar with her daughter in law
- e. Mohammed Ahmed and wife
- f. Mian Mahmud with wife
- g. Begum Safdar Butt
- h. Kaleem -ur-Rehman
- i. Saleh and Begum
- j. Ijazuddin and Begum
- k. Saeed Malik
- l. Mahmood ur Rehman Qazi and four children
- m. Begum Yasmin Faruqui
- n. Azhar Ali syed and wife

Saleh said a prayer for the departed souls.

Every body was informed that the Course had exhausted all funds after putting up the Diamond Jubilee monument.

It was unanimously resolved that each one of us should contribute Rs 2000 a year to build up the Course funds. In response to this decision, the following contributed on the spot.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---|
| a. Shehla Babar | Rs 2000 | (In addition to Rs 5000 on Baber's A/c) |
| b. Mohammed Ahmed | Rs 2000 | |
| c. Begum Safdar Butt | Rs 2000 | |
| d. Brig Ijaz uddin Khan | 2000 | |
| e. Begum Moin Faruqui | Rs 2000 | |
| f. Azhar Ali SYED | Rs 2000 | |

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NEWS LETTER

Mian Mehmood is engaged in writing the history of 1st PMA Cours. Apparently he has not got the write ups for every one of us. You are therefore requested to write about yourself or a colleague, whatever you wish to say. Your assistance in this regard will go a longway in helping out Mian Mehmud writing our history.

2. Mian Mehmood has also been busy with the finishing of the Diamond Jubilee Monument. Whatever was likely to be adversely affected by the extremes of weather has been modified/ improved / replaced. The glass cover over the diamond is now firmly set. We are grateful to Mehmood for finishing this job to the highest standards. Thankyou Mian Sahib.

3. I am proceeding abroad for about 12 weeks and shall be away from 10th July to end September. An uptodate list of the 1st PMA Course has been prepared and a copy of the same is enclosed herewith.

4. Also enclosed is the list of all those who have contributed the annual fund of Rs 2000, in implementation of the decision taken on 4th Feb this year.

Wishing all of you good health and long life.

Best regards

COURSE COORDINATOR

RAWALPINDI

07 Jul 2011

CHAPTER 18

DIAMOND JUBILEE CEREMONY AT PMA KAKUL

At this re-union all the arrangements for the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee were reviewed. Major General Azhar Ali Syed, our course coordinator, gave the details of the plan for the monument that he proposed for construction on that august occasion. It was a design which was in keeping with the spirit and aspirations of this momentous function. A large size diamond was to be placed on a base of suitable material. What the choice of material that he had in mind was a base of Solid Taxila stone with the diamond made of Onyx placed on top of it? This selection of material for the monument was opposed by some. Brigadier Mahmud was strongly of the opinion that this will not look attractive and will not be becoming the importance of the occasion. Azhar of course had the point of funds availability on his side. He wanted this to be the rule and the guiding principle for the undertaking of the job. He also was of the opinion that the final decision must be taken that very day as the person who was to undertake this work had clearly emphasized that he would need one year to complete the job. It was finally agreed that a committee be formed which should look into all the aspects and take all suitable decisions. The re-union ended on this note and resolve that we should chalk out detailed plans to complete the job timely and to ensure that the desired quality and standards required must be maintained; notwithstanding the limitations of the funds. Any additional funds that we may need we will generate.

...The Diamond Jubilee

It is now the approaching time of our Diamond Jubilee. It is an epoch-making occasion. It brings all the nostalgic memories of the past, and yet again even in the twilight years of our lives we have a fresh resolve. We are still there to put our best foot forward for the cause of the country, and to give whatever best we can to ensure its sovereignty and dignity. May Allah (SWT) guide us and the country alike?

As indicated in the News Letter of 4th July, 2009, we had made all the plans of having a memorable monument at Kakul Academy. There was some controversy as indicated in the letter, but finally we all agreed on solid Granite Base and a diamond of Zircon placed on top. Azhar has given the details of all the stages of its completion and as to how the Diamond was eventually brought from China to Pakistan. The job of erecting the Granite base and having the necessary shield prepared to be placed on the monument got delayed and this was worrying Azhar the most. But Mahmud kept giving him the assurances that it will be completed in time. Azhar had preceded earlier to Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul to co-ordinate all arrangements in connection with the visit. Major General Shakeel, son of Zair Hussain, was handling all arrangements and help that were required at General Headquarters and at Kakul. It seemed that in rendering this help by him, the news reached COAS General Kiyani, and he evinced his keen interest on hearing about this function being held at Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. It was conveyed to us that COAS may be personally attending the function and in fact hosting it himself, but no clear confirmation could be given as he had a very hectic schedule of his official activities. We were thrilled at the idea. We kept making all the preparations in the view that it could be a very important event and occasion. It was required that all the arrangements must be made befitting this. Azhar planned meticulously with the Commandant Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, Major

General Raheel Sharif. It was so arranged by them that the course should arrive at Kakul on 3rd February, 2010 and spend the night there.

The main function was to be held on 4th February, 2010, and it was expected that COAS will come to welcome us at a ceremony which will inaugurate the monument. This was to be followed by a luncheon to be hosted in the Army Mess by COAS. As planned, we reached Kakul on the evening of 3rd February, 2010 and were received graciously by the Commandant and his lady wife. After a brief ceremony held at the Cadets Mess, we were all ushered to respective accommodation so arranged for us, both at Kakul and other Officers Messes located at Abbottabad. Azhar was very relieved when all the arrangements were completed to finish all the work required in connection with the setting up of this monument. When completed it looked very elegant and dignified. All were pleased. Even the Commandant was most thrilled to see that. This was completed in the nick of time, but thank God it was there ready for the function and looked most befitting.

At night, a dinner was held in the Officers Mess. Major General Raheel Sharif hosted this and was attended by all course mates and their families. Lieutenant General Majid Malik (Retd), who was our instructor, and Begum Farman Ali widow of our instructor Major General Farman Ali, also attended on our request. Major Hamid Ali Noon, though our course, but did not pass out with us, was also there at the function as he always proudly considered himself to be a part of our course. We were all pleased to hear that COAS will be coming for the inauguration of the monument and hosting the lunch for us. So all plans materialized as envisaged. The only sad part was that Nasir-ullah Babar, who was all keen to attend this very memorable function, suddenly had a setback in his health and could not make it. His wife gave us this sad news and we all missed him and prayed for his recovery. He had been nominated to read out the address on behalf of the course. He truly represented the spirit of our course. Our course coordinator Azhar, passed on this responsibility to Jehandad.

The next day was the main function of inauguration of the monument that had been built to represent the will and the spirit of our Course. The COAS, in full recognition of the unique importance of our Course, arrived for its inauguration. He was introduced to all those of us who were present and their families. The ceremony started with the address of Jehandad on behalf of our Course. He summed up briefly the uniqueness of our course and its achievements. In response, COAS General Kiyani, highlighted the importance of the function, which was in full recognition of the pioneer course and the rich traditions set by them. He also appreciated the hallmark of the course and the lofty standards set. He expressed the hope that these will remain a beacon of light for the others who will be graduating from this institution and that they will emulate that. After this the monument was unveiled. General Kiyani was most impressed at grandeur of the moment. He expressed the view that he has seen many monuments all over the world, but has seen very few matching the elegance and symbolism of this.

After that, COAS hosted a lunch for the members of our Course and their families. With the usual speeches at the luncheon, which again summed up the significance of the occasion, the ceremonies were wound up. It turned out to be a delightful day and Diamond Jubilee of our Course ended on a high note. This ceremony was most dignified and very unique. The Commandant of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, Major General Raheel Shareef and his entire staff had a major hand and role in the planning and the conduct of the entire function. It will remain most memorable in our memories, and will always bring back the majesty of the occasion for all those of us who participated, for as long as they live.

...Dinner Hosted By

Major General Raheel Sharif



Lt Gen M. A. Majeed, our Instructor sitting next to Maj Gen Raheel. Others in the Picture are Begum Farman, Azhar, Faqir and their wives.



Mahmud, Omera Mahmud and Mian Zia (Mahmud's brother)



The other Tables where the Veterans of 1st PMA Long Course and their families are having Dinner, Mahmud-uz-Zaman is seen sitting on the right

The Majestic Diamond Jubilee Monument



.. Inauguration of the Monument



General Kayani is Welcoming the Guests at the Diamond Jubilee Ceremony



Brig Mahmud being Introduced to General Kayani



*Hamid Noon, Mahmud and Omera Sitting in Front.
Rest of the Family is at the back*



General Kayani Meeting Lieutenant General Majeed Malik



General Kayani Meeting Major General Azhar Ali Syed



The Veterans of 1st PMA Long Course Who Attended the Ceremony gather around the Monument

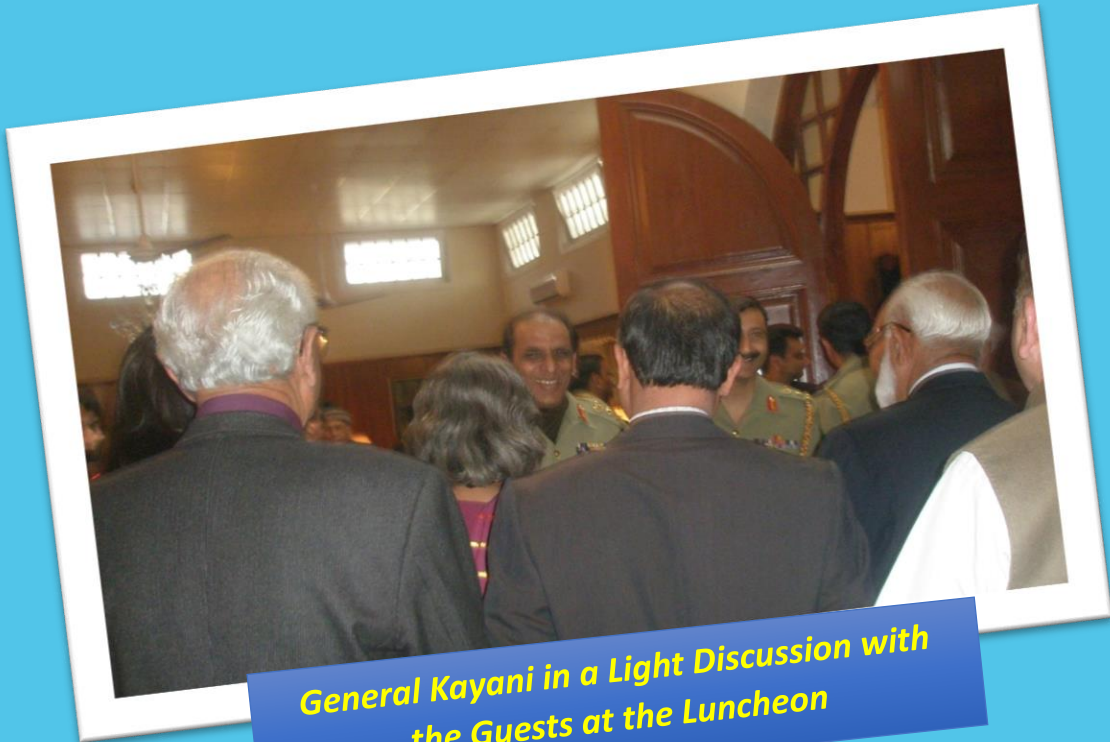


The wives and the other Relations of Veterans of 1st PMA at the Monument



Another View of the Veterans of 1st PMA Long Course at the Monument

The Luncheon Hosted by COAS...



General Kayani in a Light Discussion with the Guests at the Luncheon





Brig Mahmud in a Discussion with Lieutenant General Majeed Malik. The others are listening in intently

NEWS LETTER

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 29 Dec 2011, the 62nd passing out anniversary of the course ^{was} celebrated over a lunch at the Islamabad club, on 04 Feb 2012. The following were able to attend.

Brig and Begum Faqir Mohammad and one son.
 Begum Nasirullah Khan Babar
 Brig and Begum Hayat Ullah
 Brig and Begum Mohammed Ahmed
 Brig Mian Muhammad Mahmud
 Maj Gen and Begum Azhar Ali Syed
 Lt Col Mohammad Ayaz Khan Wazir
 Brig Kaleem ur Rehman Mirza and grandson
 Brig and Begum Ijaz uddin Khan and grand daughter
 Lt Col and Begum M.Saeed Malik and grand child
 Maj and Begum Mahmud Ahmed Kreashi
 Maj Qazi Mahmud ur Rehman with son and two kids

In all we were 25 for the lunch. The club bill we paid was Rs 15079 including the tips for the waiters. So the cost was Rs 603 per head and we had collected @ Rs 600 per head. Begum Babar and Mian Mahmud paid Rs 400 and Rs 1400 extra which more than took care of the additonal expenses. It was a simple but delicious meal. If we had included fish in the menu the cost would have gone up by at least Rs 200 per head.

The time given was 12.30 but Saeed Malik and Qazi Mahmud joined us just after 1300 hrs.

The proceedings started with welcoming all for the anniversary celebration. Thanking especially Begum Babar and Hayat Ullah who travelled all the way from Peshawar and DIK. Ayaz Khan Wazir very kindly said a prayer for the departed souls and dua for the good health of colleagues like Saleh, Zair Hussain, S.M.Akhtar Qadri and M.Z. Ahmed.

Health wise the condition of our coursemates is described below.

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Faqira is not in very good health, he is becoming forgetful and confused at times. Zohra Behn and Faqira have extended the invitation for the course to gettogether at their Country residence in the village, about one hours drive from Rawalpindi. Fresh river fish is promised for lunch amongst other dishes. Ideal time is to visit before March 15. Thank you Zohra Behn.

Mufti Wajahat is apparently in good health. He has received the 1st PMA table calender and was sending regards to all. I spoke to him on Feb 10.

Begum Babar very kindly joined us which was very gracious of her. She is a nominee for the Senate seat and wish her all the success. Although her grand nephew could not join us, all the same she paid for his lunch. Thankyou Begum Baber.

Hayat Ullah and wife appear to be in good health. He drives himself all the way from D.I.K. He was still in Islamabad when I called his house on 10 Feb.

Aziz Alam is not in very good health. He was telling me that walking is now a problem for him. He keeps visiting USA because all his children are settled there.

Mohammed Ahmed and his wife were able to join us. Both of them are in good health. They live in Defence Society Islamabad.

Mian Mahmud was with us but unfortunately his wife was not able to join us. She is under treatment which renders her at times unfit physically. We wish her good health. and speedy recovery.

Ayaz Khan Wazir is always kind to join us. He is Masha Allah in good health.

Kaleem was with us together with his grand child. He has health problems and is bravely coping with them.

Saleh is not in good health. He was unable to join us for he has to visit toilet very frequently. His son, a talented boy Asim doing good business visited my office to collect PMA calender. We pray for Saleh's good health. May ALLAH GRANT him relief.

Zair Hussain in Karachi is also not in very good health.

He is bravely fighting his health problem. We wish him speedy recovery.

Ijazuddin and his Begum Tasneem jointly organised the lunch at Islamabad club for our Course. The food was simple but good. Arrangements for all of us to sit together were fine. Thank you Tasneem and Ijaz for your efforts.

Akhtar is not well. These days he has to visit hospital daily for the treatment of his back problem. We wish him good health.

Saeed Malik and his Begum are fine. I heard Mrs Saeed extending invitation for the 23rd March on the occasion of their wedding anniversary perhaps? I shall be away to Dubai but shall certainly find out, as to how it went? Saeed is busy helping his son in running a store in Chaklala.

Qadri is not well and has received the table calender. He is most of the time bed ridden.

Mehmood uz zaman is in Karachi. He called me on telephone to convey his bad health and inability to join us for anniversary lunch. Our prayers are with him and may Allah grant him good health.

It was a great honour for the course to have Kreshi and his wife amongst us. He was supporting a walking stick. All of us were pleased to have gup shup with them.

Qazi Mehmood who has gone stone deaf, was with us together with his son and two grand children. Other wise he appears to be in good health.

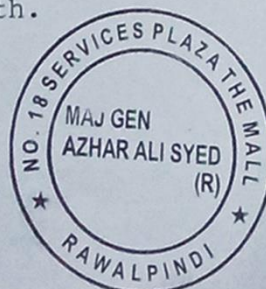
Following have paid the annual subscription of Rs 2000, for the year 2012.

Zafar Khan
Faqir Mohammed
Begum Babar
Hayat ullah
Mohammed Ahmed
Mian Mehmood

Azhar Ali Syed
Ayaz Khan Wazir
Kalim ur Rehman
Ijaz uddin Khan
Saeed Malik
Mahmud Kreashi

Wish you all a good health.

Rawalpindi
16 Feb 2012



Course Coordinator

NEWS LETTER

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 04 Jan 2013, the 63rd passing out anniversary of the course was celebrated over a lunch held at the Garrison Officer's Mess-Rawalpindi, on 04 Feb 2013. The following were able to attend:-

Son of Brig Faqir Mohammad
 Begum Maj Gen Nasirullah Babar
 Brig & Begum Hayat-Ullah
 Brig & Begum Ahmed with their son
 Brig M.M. Mahmud
 Maj Gen & Begum Azhar Ali Syed
 Lt Col M. Ayaz Khan Wazir
 Brig Kaleem with 2 Grand Daughters
 Begum Brig M.A. Faruqi
 Brig & Begum Ijaz uddin Khan
 Lt Col & Begum M. Saeed Malik
 Maj & Begum Mahmud Kreashi
 Maj Qazi Mahmud-ur-Rehman

During the gettogether we were able to say a prayer for the departed souls of Mohammad Saleh, Zair Hussain and Brig Faqir Mohammad, who passed away in Nov, Dec 2012 and Jan 2013 respectively. Of course we remembered all those colleagues who left us earlier. I report regretfully that out of 62 of us who passed out on 04 Feb 1950, only 16 of us are alive. It is my earnest prayer that may Allah in His infinite mercy grant good health to those of us who are living. Ameen.

Zafar Khan is in good health and lives in London. He visits Pakistan three or four times a year and is ever ready to solve the financial problems of the course. He visited India from 20-27 Feb 2013 and on return left for London.

P/2

Faqir Mohammad's son wished to invite all of us including children and grand children, for a lunch at the country house of late Brig Faqir. His lady wife Zohra Behn has also expressed the same desire. Please let me know as to when will it be convenient for you to join such a gettogether for lunch at Faqira's village? Your response is eagerly awaited.

Mufti Wajahat Hussain is in good health and doing well. I spoke to him on telephone, soon after 04 Feb, 2013.

Begum Babar is extremely kind and makes it a point to regularly attend our gettogethers.

Hayat ullah with his Begum came all the way from D.I. Khan and are very regular in attending the reunions. Zafar Khan and myself met them both in Ireland in august last when they were visiting their son Dr Amjad and his family. They are usually there during the summer hot months to get away from D.I. Khan. Dr Amjad has a beautiful house with sprawling lawns in MOYCULLEM, a small town near GALWAY, Republic of Ireland.

I spoke to Aziz Alam last month. He had gone to Dacca last January, but had to cut short his visit because he contracted pneumonia. He is on the mend, but feels, extremely weak especially in the legs. We wish him good health .

Mohammad Ahmed, except that he is a little hard of hearing is in good health. He takes regular exercise in the Gym and is very fit.

Mian Mahmood despite his diabetese is extremely energetic and perhaps he burns his sugar by remaining active. He frequently travels to Lahore and has wide business interests. He is in touch with PMA authorities and ensures that the diamond Jubilee monument is kept in good shape. Recently he was proccupied with answering a questonaire about the living and other conditions in PMA in the fifties. Jointly with Ijazuddin, Kreashi, Saeed Malik and others he has finalised the detailed answers to the questionnaire. He is keenly interested in course affairs and has the vigour and will to attend to them with dedication and devotion. Well done Mian Sahib and please keep it up.

I spoke to Begum Safdar Butt. Because of her previous engagement she was unable to join us for the anniversary lunch. Partly it was my fault because I was late in contacting her. Hopefully she will be with us for the next occasion.

Ayaz Khan Wazir is extremely regular in being with us on all occasions. His payments are prompt and there is never any delay. He is interested in course affairs.

Kaleem again is a very keen participant in course affairs. He certainly has some health problems which he is fighting successfully. We wish him good health and long life.

It was extremely gracious of Begum Faruqui to join us for the anniversary lunch. She has not been enjoying the best of health, but is bravely facing the problems to remain cheerful. We wish her the best of health.

Ijazuddin and Begum are keen and regular in attending the course meeting and reunions. Begum Ijaz is a well read person and very talented. It would be a pleasure to hear her talk in the next meeting.

Hasan Durrani's sons are very much interested in the course affairs. They sent a consignment of 'GUR' for some of us. Aslam Durrani would have turned up for the gettogether but he got mixed up in the dates. We hope to have him amongst us next time.

Akhtar after the demise of his lady wife is a broken man. He does not enjoy the best of health but is bravely facing the tremendous loss and trying to remain on his feet. We wish him a peaceful and healthy life.

Saeed Malik is thriving and is busy helping his son run a big store in Chaklala. He is in good health and carries around Qazi 'the deaf' to attend all the meetings of the course. Saeed and his begum are dedicated Muslims, regular in prayers and attending religious lectures. We urge them to pray for the coursemates also.

I spoke to Qadri. Unfortunately, he is bed ridden and cannot move about much. We wish him speedy recovery.

Zaman Hamid is also bed ridden. He is in Karachi and perhaps will stay there. We also wish him good health and pray that he is up and about. His message was conveyed to colleagues on 4th Feb 2013.

Kreashi and his lady wife graced the occasion and were with us on 4th Feb. Kreashi supports a heavy walking stick now, with the help of which he goes about. He takes active interest in course affairs and was a great help to Mian Mehmood in answering the questionnaire sent by PMA Kakul.

Qazi Sahib, as we all know is stone deaf. But takes keen interest in course affairs. He accompanies Saeed Malik for every meeting. Not able to hear anything is a great disadvantage but this has not adversely affected his enthusiasm and fraternity for the course.

Attached please find a copy of the course accounts. I am glad to report that except for a few, the coursemates are regularly paying their annual subscription and apparently we have no financial problems at the moment. We collected about Rs 9000 as luncheon contribution but the bill of Rs 14878 was paid from the course funds, for the lunch held on 04Feb 2013.

Your acknowledgement and comments are awaited.

Wishing you all good health and long life.

MAJ GEN(R) AZHAR ALI SYED
COURSE COORDINATOR



RAWALPINDI

1 Mar 2013

NEWS LETTER

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 06 Jan 2014, the 64th passing out anniversary of the course was celebrated over a lunch held at 12.30 Hrs on 04th Feb 2014, at the Islamabad club. All arrangements for this, were very kindly made by Ijazuddin Khan to make the function a complete success . Our thanks for the same.

2. The following were able to attend

- a. Begum Faqir Mohammed with two Sons
- b. Kamal Abdullah S/o Gen Abdullah Malik
- c. Brig and Begum Hayat Ullah
- d. Brig Mohammad Ahmed with his son
- e. Brig Mian M. Mahmud
- f. Maj Gen and Begum Azhar Ali Syed
- g. Begum Safdar Butt with son Imran and daughter Rukhi
- h. Begum Brig M.A. Farooqui
- i. Brig and Begum Ijaz Uddin Khan
- j. Siddique and Ali Hasan Durrani sons of Col M. H. Durrani
- k. Lt Col S.M. Akhtar
- l. Lt Col M.S.Malik with his son and daughter-in-law
- m. Tariq Rahim Anwer S/o Col C.M.Anwer
- n. Maj and Begum Mahmud A. Kreashi

3. A room with four large size round tables to seat nine persons on each table, were provided. So all eight of us were seated on one table. The second table was occupied by the ladies who like to huddle together. On the third table were seated all the youngsters and the fourth table remained unoccupied.

4. The proceedings started with prayers, by Saeed Malik for the departed Souls of Zaman Hamid and the other Coursemates who had passed away. Zaman Hamid had been bed ridden for over a year and towards the end was hospitalised for a month where he breathed his last. His body was brought

P/2

to Rawalpindi and buried in the Army graveyard. May Allah in his infinite mercy bless the souls of all the forty eight course mates who have since left us, and grant good health to the surviving fourteen for as long as they live, Ameen.

5. M. Zafar Khan is in good health and keeps visiting Pakistan. He arrived this time on 16th Feb 2014, and proceeded to Dehli on 18th Feb for a week's visit. On return after a few days stay, he departed for London on wednesday 05 March. He is ever ready to help the course-mates whenever in financial difficulties and this is very gracious of him.

6. Abdullah Malik's son Kamal was with us and it was a pleasure to have him.

7. Mufti Wajahat Hussain sounds alright except for the old age. I talked to him in the second week of March. Like most of us, he is not very active now and is mostly home bound. We wish him good health. He is ofcourse in Karachi.

8. N.K. Babar's family had proceeded to Peshawar for a wedding and they were unable to attend.

9. Hayat Ullah was with us together with his lady wife. He looked fine despite some health problems that he has got. Last summer we met them both in Ireland. His son Amjad is a doctor working in Galway hospital. We visited Hayat Ullah and his son in Moycullen. Amjad and his wife have got a beautiful house on a sloping ground with spacious big lawns. Zafar and I were last year and enjoyed their hospitality.

10. Mohammad Ahmed is perhaps the fittest amongst the coursemates. He exercises regularly in a gym and except for being hard of hearing there appears to be no problem with him. He was present with his son and enjoyed the gettogether lunch.

11. Mian Mahmud alone was able to attend. Humaira unfortunately has not been well. Therefore she was unable to join. We pray for Humaira's good health. Mian Sahib has visited PMA Kakul several times since we put up the Diamond Jubilee Monument. He has been trying to improve the Monument. One problem he mentioned was condensation that takes place in the plastic cover. Apparently the plastic cover of the diamond needs a couple of

fine holes for breathing. But I am sure Mian Sahib knows the solution.

12. I have lost contact with Ayaz Khan Wazir. The circular mailed to him for the get together on 04 Feb could not be delivered and was returned by post saying addressee not available. Ayaz Khan is a very responsible person but apparently he never intimated about his change of address. Ijazuddin on my request visited his house which perhaps is being demolished by the new owner, but he too could not find out as to where Ayaz Khan has gone. I shall try to locate him via CMA(O) pension, if possible .

13. Kaleem had initially promised to come for the 4th Feb reunion, but apparently he became very unwell and was unable to make it. Thank God, he has recovered since then and is feeling better now.

14. Yasmin Faruqi very kindly joined us, for the anniversary get together . We wish her good health and it was a great pleasure to have her with us

15. Ijazuddin Khan appears to be in good health and is very active. He plays golf regularly every morning. He very kindly accepted the responsibility to organise the anniversary lunch in Islamabad. I must say it was a job very well done. All of us enjoyed the comfort of arrangements made by him. His lady wife Tasneem though behind the scenes is a very active partner. Thankyou Tasneem and Ijaz for the enjoyable lunch on the occasion of anniversary celebration and making us feel so comfortable .

16. It was a pleasure to have Siddique and Ali Hasan sons of M.H. Durrani. They travelled from Peshawar to join us for the lunch. Not only that, but Siddique gave me a few bags of specially made Peshawari 'GUR' for distribution amongst Ist PMA course fellows. That was promptly done as they left on their way back to peshawar.

17. Soon after the 06 Jan decision, that the course anniversary would be celebrated over a lunch in Islamabad club . I contacted S.M. Akhter who had landed in Karachi just couple of days before. He was informed accordingly. Since he had just arrived in Karachi, he was unsure if he would make it for the occasion a month later. His one son and daughter live in Karachi and the dad feels most comfortable in daughter's cosy home.

I had little hope that in view of his physical disability he would

But it was indeed very gracione of Akhtar to travel back to Rawalpindi and give us the pleasure of his company . We thank you for that Akhtar. Finding you amongst us was something that made every body happy. We wish you very good health especially your ability to walk around which is restricted.

18. Saeed Malik a lively bird who is fit and agile was unaccompanied because his lady wife had proceeded to perform Umra and say special prayers for the forgiveness of her illustrious husband. However, we were happy to see his son and daughter-in-law who joined us for lunch. A very smart young couple

and 19. Tariq Raheem Anwer S/O C.M. Anwer was able to join us for lunch and we were happy to have him amongst us. His late father was a very active member of first PMA freternity and the son's presence was matter of pleasure for all of us.

20. Mahmud Ahmed Kreashi is always away to USA with his lady wife every summer. Kreashi very kindly spoke to me from U.S.A expressing his desire to join us for the anniversary lunch. That was extremely good of him. He returned from America on 2nd of Feb and both them Kreashi and his lady wife were with us. Thankyou Mahmud and Begum for honouring us on the auspicious occasion of 4th Feb get together. It was a great effort on your part and we appreciate it.

21. I got the news that Qazi Mahmud had fractured his hip joint. This happened when he was trying to do 'Woozoo' and tried to wash his foot in the wash-basin. I went to see him at his house in Chaklala and found that he could walk just a step or two with the help of a walker. Other wise most of the time he was lying in bed or resting in a chair. He was very keen on making effort to join us for the anniversary lunch and even gave me his contribution for the function. But apparently he was unable to make it and we missed him. Well Qazi Sahib we wish you speedy recovery and hopefully we shall find you amongst us very soon.

22. It was a pleasure to have some young fellows-children of our coursemates amongst us. Now that all of us are gething on in age, a thought crossed my mind-that it is time for the baton to be passed on to the next generation. I shall greatly appreciate your valuable views on this idea.

23. It my earnest prayer that all of you and your families remain in good health and wish you all happiness.

May Allah bless you all. Ameen.

RAWALPINDI
25 Mar 2014

MAJ GEN(R) AZHAR ALI SYED
COURSE COORDINATOR

NEWS LETTER

In accordance with the contents of circular dated 07 Jan 2016, the 66th passing out anniversary of the course was celebrated over a lunch held at 12.30 Hrs on 04 Feb 2016, at the Islamabad club. Arrangements for this function, were very kindly made by Tasneem and Brig Ijazuddin Khan which turned out to be a complete success.

2. The following were able to attend:-

- a. Begum Faqir M.Khan with son and his family
- b. Brig and Begum Hayatullah
- c. Brig Mian M. Mahmud
- d. Begum and Gen Azhar Ali Syed
- e. Begum Brig M.A. Faruqui
- f. Begum and Brig Ijazuddin Khan
- g. Maj Aslam Durrani S/o Hassan Durrani
- h. Lt Col and Mrs Saeed Malik
- i. Maj Qazi Mahmud-ur-Rehman

3. A room with nine seater tables was provided with three such tables. Ladies huddled together on one table. A table was occupied by gentlemen.

4. M.Zafar Khan is in good health. He arrives in Pakistan on Sunday 14th of Feb and leaves for India on 19th of Feb. He returns from India on 26th Feb. He departs for London on 01 Mar 2016.

5. Mufti Wajahat passed away on 18 Sep 2015. May Allah bless his soul

6. Hayat Ullah with his begum attended the 4th Feb get together. They are very regular and make it a point to always join us for the reunion. His son Amjad a doctor in Ireland was not able to visit Pakistan, with his family this year. So I suppose Hayat Ullahs would proceed to Ireland, as usual in the coming summer. Except for an odd ailment here and there Hayat Ullah is apparently in good health.

7. Aziz Alam passed away on 17 Aug 2015. He was staying in Dacca with

his daughter. His body was flown to Karachi and buried there by his lady wife.

8. Begum N.K.Babar who had planned to join us for the reunion was unable to do so at the last minute due to high blood pressure. But thank God she is alright now.

9. Mohammad Ahmed has some foot problem which prevented him from joining us for the reunion. But he is better now.

10. Mian Mahmud was able to join us. His heart problem is sorted out and he is in good spirits now.

11. Begum Faqir Mohammed who regularly attends these reunions, joined us together with her son and daughter-in-law. Her son a doctor has established a hospital and running it very well in Islamabad.

12. Begum Safdar Butt was unable to join us this year, due to the sickness of her driver. All of us missed the company of Safdar Butt's family.

13. Ayaz Khan Wazir has vacated his house in Islamabad and perhaps shifted with his son also in Islamabad. But unfortunately he has not intimated his new address. I have failed to track him even through his bankers where he receives his pension. I shall greatly appreciate if anyone can help locate his new address.

14. Kaleem-ur-Rehman was not feeling too bright on 4th of Feb. He therefore stayed home. I did talk to him and he is thankfully alright now.

15. Tasneem and Ijazuddin very kindly organised the reunion at Islamabad club. Ijaz plays Golf regularly early in the morning.

16. Maj Aslam Durrani S/o M. H. Durrani joined us for the reunion. It is always a pleasure to have Aslam with us. Presently he is posted in Rawalpindi, and is a very affectionate boy. We wish him success in his army career.

17. Sheikh Akhtar despite his unfit condition was able to join us which was a pleasant surprise. He came on a wheel chair and all of us were happy to see him amongst us. Thank you Akhtar and we deeply appreciate your effort to be amongst us on the occasion.

18. Saeed Malik had a heart problem. He was with us together with his Begum. Had three stents put in and is alright now.

He was a great help in delivering a winding up speech after the lunch.

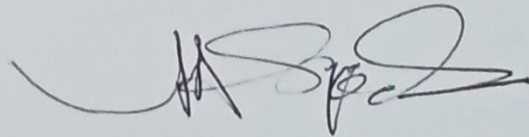
19. Mahmud Kreashi called me from America to enquire about every one. He was given the necessary details. He regretted his inability to join us for the reunion.

20. Qazi Mehmood-ur-Rehman unfortunately is stone deaf. Therefore he carries paper and pencil to communicate. This disability has adversely affected his style. He now is dedicated to religion. He is otherwise in good shape.

21. We were 62 when we passed out from PMA Kakul. Today, we are only Twelve. It is my earnest prayer to God Almighty, that for as long as we are alive, He should keep us in good health.

I wish you all, your children and their families a happy healthy and prosperous life.

May Allah bless you All. Ameen.



MAJ GEN (R) AZHAR ALI SYED
COURSE COORDINATOR

RAWALPINDI

15 Feb 2016



Chapter 20

...Platinum Jubilee of our Course

Life went along and the time passed. We soon realized that the occasion for the celebration of our Platinum Jubilee was now approaching. The few of the survivors left, felt that the age factor demands a simple ceremony. We did not have the energy to undertake the effort of raising another monument like the ones for our Golden and Diamond Jubilee that were gracing the premises of the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. Both had honored us, PMA and GHQ in that they recognized our Course, The First PMA Long Course, truly as the Pioneers of PMA. In recognition of that, we had been given the singular honour to place monuments at the premises of PMA. While we were all proud that they were gracing the PMA, the thought of raising the monument in celebrations of our Platinum Jubilee was rather daunting for the few of us still alive. At the get-together of the Course on 4th February, 2019, while we were discussing this issue, some of the ladies, in particular Begum Ijaz-Ud-Din, came up with the idea that we must have something to remember this historic occasion. It may be a simple plaque placed on a tree, was the suggestion. If a monument is to be placed, we felt it should be elegant enough to match the spirit and the demand of the occasion. With this thought, we concluded that we forego this privilege given to our course and have a simple celebration of this momentous occasion.

The news of this reached the Army Chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa and he sensed the unique importance of this Platinum Jubilee of our Course, The First PMA Long Course. He considered it a historic moment in that he recognized we were truly the Pioneers of Pakistan Military Academy and felt that it must be acknowledged and celebrated in that spirit. It was with these thoughts that he hosted this function himself. We felt elated, too. We had already planned to hold this in the Garrison Officers Mess, as they had excellent facilities. It suited him and so it was agreed that we all meet there on 4th February 2020.

For this function we had sent a circular to all the families of our deceased colleagues. As since 2019 get together, we have delegated all the responsibility of looking after the affairs of the course to the next generation. It has been done so that continuity of the regular activities of our course is maintained, even after all of us pass away. We are thrilled our young generation has admirably done this and have fully taken over all the responsibilities. In this notable mention must be made of Major General (Retd) Shakeel son of Brig (Retd) Uzair and Omar Saeed Malik son of Lt Col (Retd) Saeed Malik. They are in regular contact with the younger generation of our course and we hope this will give them a permanent platform. Because of their efforts, some over 40 of the families and the children of our colleagues turned up for this event.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa, along his wife and with a small staff, including DG, ISPR, arrived at the appointed time and expressed his happiness to be with us, the pioneers of the Pakistan Military Academy, for this momentous occasion. Four out of the six veterans, of the course, were present. The Army Chief engaged them in delightful discussion and was happy that we had such wealth of experience. He took particular interest in the account of 1965 war as Brig (Retd) Ahmad and Brig (Retd) Mian Mahmud were fully part of it. He may have read many an account of this, but he was excited to learn of the first eye witness account of this engagement of the enemy tanks, by B Squadron, which was commanded by Ahmad. This force was part of the advancing Indian Armoured Division, which had reached upto Chawinda on the morning of 8th September and they were stemmed in their tracks by the sole effort of Ahmad's Squadron. The account is already fully covered earlier in the write up on Ahmad.

Brig (Retd) Mian Mahmud told the Army Chief that he had written a book which is likely to be published soon under the name of *My Reflections in Passion*. General Bajwa expressed his pleasure at that as he opined, "We don't seem to have the habit of writing and recording our thoughts and experience. That is why we find our officers write very few books as compared to the other contemporaries in the other Armed Forces of the world. It will be a welcomed addition." Brig (Retd) Mahmud requested the Chief that he would like to have this book published with no editing by any agency. General Bajwa endorsed this thought and said that he believes in the freedom of expression and hopes that it will impose no hurdles and problems in its publishing. To further reinforce this he said that if I envisage any difficulties, then I should hand over the text of the book to him and he will have it published. I felt no need for that and told him that the book is already with the publisher and hoped that it will be launched soon. I elaborated by telling him I have made my best efforts to project the truth and that it has no seditious material in it. Whatever criticism I have made; it is done only to reflect some of our weaknesses so that they may be addressed. He was in conformity with these views and it was satisfying for me.

The discussion continued over the lunch. Brig (Retd) Mian Mahmud told General Bajwa that we are now much advanced in age, and the few of us now remaining, cannot find the energy to raise a suitable monument for this occasion. He explained that at the PMA, Kakul we have two dignified and even majestic memorials for our Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations and they were befitting these monumental occasions. Now for the august occasion of our Platinum Jubilee we have decided to celebrate it quietly and not to engage ourselves in any laborious effort to raise one. Graciously, General Bajwa responded that we should not fret ourselves over it and that he will have this built, so that this may symbolize the majesty of the occasion. We thanked him for this. We completed the design, which was based on our elegant model of our Diamond Jubilee, along with a team of the Army. This was approved by the C.O.A.S., and is now only awaiting completion. This should satisfy some families of our deceased colleagues, who were particularly emphasizing the need to leave behind some monument worthy of our Course, and which will keep bringing back the thoughts of those 62 of us, who passed out from PMA, Kakul on 4TH February, 1950.



*The Exchange of Shields between
General Bajwa and the Veterans*



Brig Mahmud Receiving a Shield from General Bajwa



A Group Photograph of Veterans of 1st PMA Long Course with General Qamar Javed Bajwa



General Bajwa in an animated Discussion with Mahmud, Azhar and Shakeel



Mahmud in a serious Discussion with General Bajwa. Azhar is Watching Very Intently



A Group Photograph of 1st PMA Long Course veterans with General Bajwa and their Families



General Bajwa and his Wife Being Received on their Arrival



Mahmud Presenting the Platinum Jubilee Shield to General Bajwa

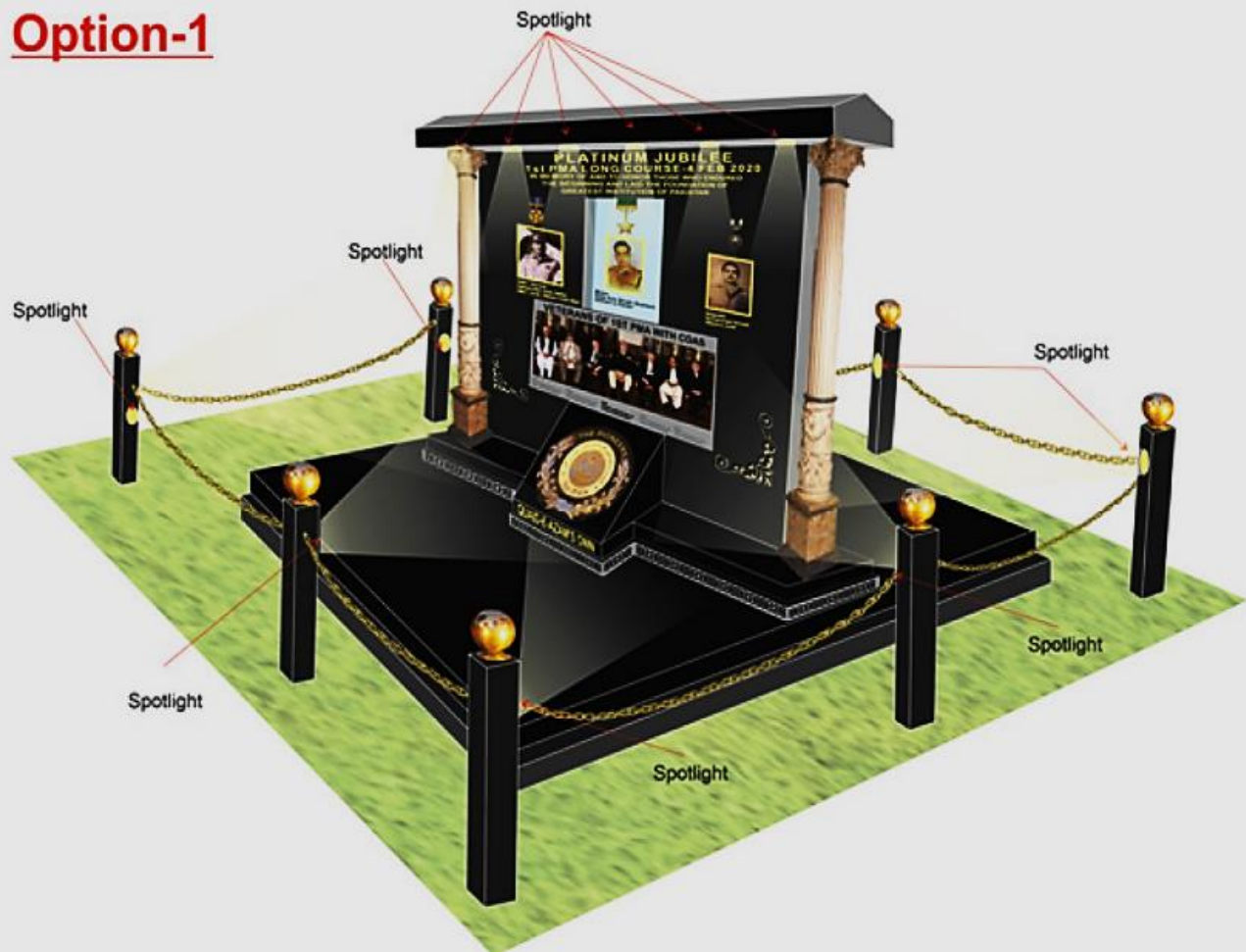


Group Photograph of General Bajwa with Veterans and their Families



25th September 2020. A meeting of 1st PMA veterans at the residence of late Gen Azhar Ali Syed.

Option-1



As discussed earlier, COAS had kindly offered to build this Platinum Jubilee Monument for our Course. The design of this monument was also approved.

A large group photograph of the 1941-1942 football team. The team consists of 40 individuals, likely players and coaches, posed in four rows on a grassy field. They are wearing dark jerseys with light-colored numbers and light-colored pants. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

[illegible]

Back Side View

Chapter 21

The Un-Veiling of the Platinum Jubilee Monument

The task to complete this Monument, was given by the COAS to Lieutenant General Amir Abbassi, the then QMG. A meeting was called in GHQ on 20th September, 2020, to finalize the design of the Monument. Lt Gen Amir Abbassi presided the meeting and it was attended by Brig (Retd) Asif Akhtar, Head of Army Heritage Foundation. The Course was represented by Brig (Retd) Mohammad Ahmad, Lt Col (Retd) Saeed Malik accompanied by the younger generation, Maj Gen (Retd) Shakeel Hussain S/O Late Brig Zair Hussain and Omar Saeed S/O Lt Col (Retd) Saeed Malik. An effort was made to finalize the design of the monument. The one proposed was simple and was not impressive. Mahmud had strong reservations over this, and he was of the opinion that it should be on the pattern of our Diamond Jubilee Monument that we had built at PMA, Kakul. The base proposed was in Black Granite and it was suggested that the center of the monument should have a similar Crest as was done at PMA, Kakul. To resolve the matter, Lt Col Salman from COAS Secretariat, arranged another meeting in the Garrison Officers Mess. In this meeting Brig (Retd) Mahmud, Osman Malik, Lt Col Salman and Havildar Sher Mohammad participated. Mahmud gave an outline of his proposed design. Havildar Sher Mohammad was tasked to make an imprint for this for consideration and approval. He worked dexterously and presented a comprehensive imprint of this design. This was approved by all. This was also shown to COAS and he too approved. Then the work on it was started in all earnest, and it was hoped that it will be completed by 4th February, 2021. Brig (Retd) Akhtar Asif, Col Asad head of the Army Museum and Lt Col (Retd) Khurram GSO 2 (Co-ord), all took keen interest in it and painstakingly supervised its completion. Mahmud proposed that for the main crest to be placed in the center, Irfan of Sialkot should be approached, as they had done a good job in making it for our Diamond Jubilee Monument. It was agreed and an order was placed on them for this job.

The work on it proceeded smoothly. Periodic meetings were held at the Army Museum to oversee the progress. Brig (Retd) Mahmud, Brig (Retd) Asif Akhtar, Col Asad, Lt Col (Retd) Khurram and Osman Malik participated and reviewed the pace and the quality of the work; they were pleased with the completion of this task in time for our re-union. Even General Bajwa, also stopped over in the Museum off and on, to check the work being executed.

Some photos of the ongoing work and supervisory visits are placed below: -



Meeting held at the Army Museum to Supervise the Construction of the Monument



The Shield to be placed at the Monument is being Examined



Visit to the Site even in Rain to see the Progress

And finally, it was ready and completed, before our approaching date of next Re-union on 4th February, 2011. Since General Bajwa was available for the 4th February, all arrangements were finalized to hold the un-veiling and the Course Re-union both on the same date. A circular was sent to all five living course mates and the families of the deceased colleagues to this effect. They were all very thrilled and maximum attendance was being promised. The time fixed for the un-veiling was 13:00 Hrs. and the re-union get together was to follow in the Garrison Officers Mess.

Later, due to the sudden important engagement of the COAS, it was postponed for the 7th February, 2021. Time was kept the same as before. On the morning of the date of the function, we were advised about the change of timing to be 15:00 Hrs. This caused some confusion, as we could not inform all the participants about this change and some reached there early according to the previous schedule. For this management committee, tendered their apologies to those who were caused this in-ordinate wait.

Out of the five living members of the Course, two, namely Azhar and Ahmad were immobilized, due to their sickness, and the remaining three Zafar, Mahmud and Saeed Malik were available. Since Zafar and Mahmud were to come from Islamabad, so they decided to come to-gather for the function. They left promptly, but before they could reach even the Zero Point, they found themselves stuck in a big traffic jam. It was occasioned due to the arrival of Saudi Interior Minister at Nur Khan Base, Chaklala, and he was now driving to Islamabad along the Islamabad Expressway. Considering, that they will not be able to make it to the Army Museum in time, Mahmud called Brig (Retd) Asif Akhtar to advise him that the Chief may be requested to delay his arrival

to 16:00 Hrs. When he was informed about this, he maintained that he will come for the function at the required time and will wait for us till we arrive. It was rather embarrassing, but it could not be helped. Mahmud and Zafar, decided to now take the route along Kashmir Highway and then to proceed to Rawalpindi along the Peshawar Road. This too was heavily packed, as all the traffic using Islamabad Highway, was being diverted to this route. While the car was laboring through this rush, Lt Col Salman staff officer to COAS, called Mahmud to find out his where about. He was told that we were just approaching Golra Depot. To facilitate their way through this traffic he decided to rush with an MP outrider. With all his effort, Zafar and Mahmud could barely reach the Army Museum by 16:00 Hrs. General Bajwa and all his PSO's were awaiting, and they received them very warmly. Mahmud apologized for this delay, but they smilingly ignored this and opined that they did not mind this waiting at all. It was no fault of theirs they held.

Finally, the Ceremony started and General Bajwa asked all three present members of our Course, to come forward and perform the un-veiling ceremony to-gather with him. The Monument appeared very majestic and most appropriate for this occasion. Everyone was pleased to see this and the 1st PMA Long Course, will be most grateful to General Bajwa for extending this gesture. Extensive coverage was given. This was followed by sumptuous tea and the Army Chief mixed very freely with all the participants. The function was largely attended and over 45 persons, which included three course mates and the families of their old colleagues were also present.



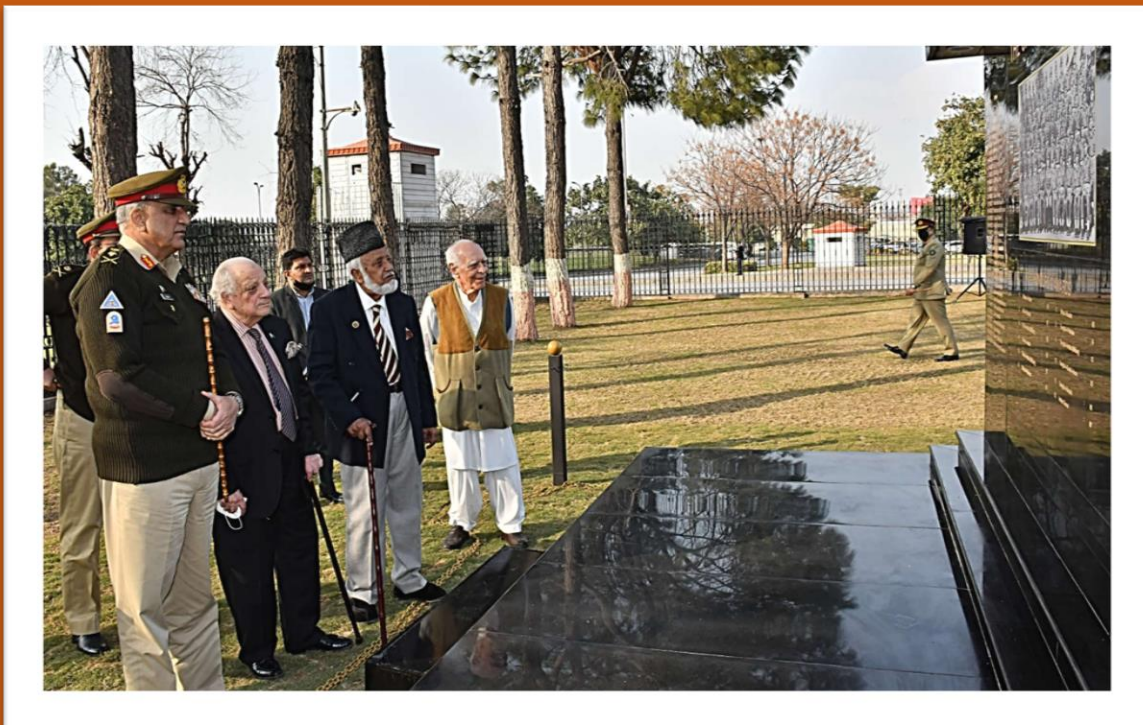
General Bajwa being Received by Lieutenant General Asim Munir



General Bajwa Being Received by Col Saeed



Begum Bajwa arriving for the Function



General Bajwa and the Veterans watching the back of the Monument



General Bajwa and the Veterans in Front of the Majestic Monument



Zafar and Mahmud with Kamal Abdullah's Sons



General Bajwa with the Veterans and their Families in the Museum



General Bajwa Un-Veiling the Monument with the Veterans





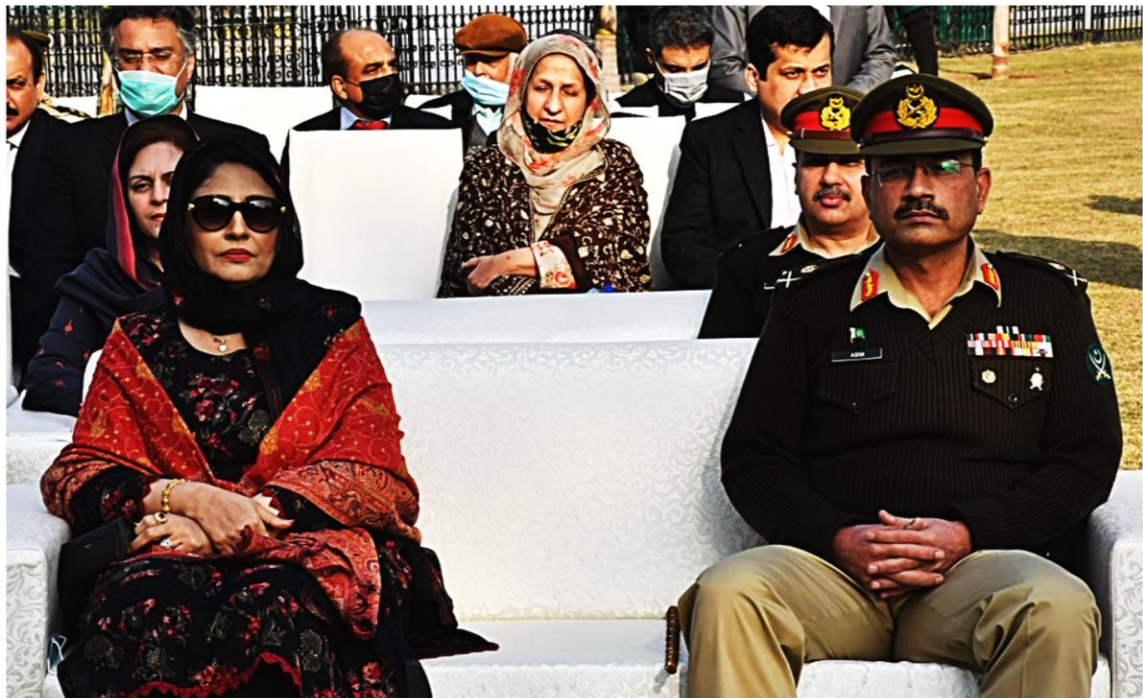
Mahmud, Saeed Malik and Zafar before the start of the Ceremony



General Bajwa and all the PSO's Seated with their Lady Wives



General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Begum Bajwa



Lieutenant General Syed Asim Munir and Begum Munir

Brig (Retd) Tanvir Ahmad Khan SJ Son in Law of Dildar Rana Greeting General Bajwa



General Bajwa in Conversation with Begum Faqir Mohammad





General Bajwa in Conversation with Begum Ijaz-ud-Din



General Bajwa with Sheila Babar and Hassan Babar



General Bajwa with Qasim Reza, Begum Mohammad Ahmad and Begum Ijaz-ud-Din



General Bajwa with Omer Saeed and his wife.



Saeed Malik, Begum Saeed Malik, Begum Faqir, Begum Ahmad and Begum Ijaz-ud-Din with Begum and General Bajwa in a Group Photograph

1st PMA LONG COURSE -4 FEB 2020

In memory of and to honor those who endured the beginning and laid the foundation of greatest institution of Pakistan



Maj Gen Naeemullah Khan Babar
Star-i-Jurat & Bar
Hikal-e-Shujaat



Maj. Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider)



Brig Muhammad Ahmed
Star-i-Jurat

VETERANS OF 1st PMA WITH COAS



Li Col (R) Muhammad Zafar Khan, Li Col (R) Muhammad Saeed Malik, Brig (R) Mian Muhammad Mahmud TDA, COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, NDM, Maj Gen (R) Ashar Ali Syed, Brig (R) Hayat Ullah, Brig (R) Muhammad Ahmed SJ

THE GRADUATION OF 1st PMA

| Ser | PA No | Name |
|-----|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. | PA-2695 | Raja Aziz Bhatti |
| 2. | PA-2696 | Lugman Mahmood |
| 3. | PA-2697 | Malik Muhammad Sharif |
| 4. | PA-2698 | Muhammad Zafar Khan |
| 5. | PA-2699 | Faqir Muhammad Khan |
| 6. | PA-2700 | Muhammad Akram |
| 7. | PA-2701 | Gul Hayat Khan |
| 8. | PA-2702 | Abdullah Khan Malik |
| 9. | PA-2703 | Ahmad Jamal Khan |
| 10. | PA-2704 | Iqbal Mehdi Shah |
| 11. | PA-2705 | Yusuf Ali |
| 12. | PA-2706 | Sardar Ahmed |
| 13. | PA-2707 | Mohammad Saadat Ali |
| 14. | PA-2708 | Mohammad Iqbal Hussain |
| 15. | PA-2709 | Fazil Ur Raheem |
| 16. | PA-2710 | Abdul Wadood Khan |
| 17. | PA-2711 | Hamid Hussain Shign |
| 18. | PA-2712 | Jahan Dad Khan |
| 19. | PA-2713 | Muzaffar Khan Malik |
| 20. | PA-2714 | Muhammad Hussain |
| 21. | PA-2715 | Naseer Ullah Khan Babar |
| 22. | PA-2716 | Hayat Ullah |
| 23. | PA-2717 | Ishaq Ali Shah Giani |
| 24. | PA-2718 | Mir Aziz Alam Khan |
| 25. | PA-2719 | Mohammad Ahmed |
| 26. | PA-2720 | Mian Muhammad Mahmud |
| 27. | PA-2721 | Muhammad Riaz Khan |
| 28. | PA-2722 | Zafar Hashmat |
| 29. | PA-2723 | Jahanzeb Khan Bangash |
| 30. | PA-2724 | Azhar Ali Syed |
| 31. | PA-2725 | DR. Ghulam Saffar Butt |



HONOURS & AWARDS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Nishan-e-Haider | 01 | 7. Tamgha-e-Basalat | 01 |
| 2. Star-i-Jurat | 03 | 8. Inlazi Sanad | 07 |
| 3. Hikal-e-Shujaat (Military) | 06 | 9. Star-i-Khidmat | 01 |
| 4. Star-i-Inlazi (Military) | 07 | 10. Tamgha-e-Pakistan | 04 |
| 5. Tamgha-e-Inlazi (Military) | 03 | | |
| 6. Star-i-Basalat | 05 | 11. Tamgha-e-Qaid-e-Azam | 04 |

| Ser | PA No | Name |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------|
| 32. | PA-2726 | Mohammad Ayaz Khan Waiz |
| 33. | PA-2727 | Dildar Rana |
| 34. | PA-2728 | Asad Khan |
| 35. | PA-2729 | Mir Abdul Naeem |
| 36. | PA-2730 | Kaleem Ur Rehman Mirza |
| 37. | PA-2731 | Mamuddin Ahmed Faruqi |
| 38. | PA-2732 | Aziz Ur Rehman |
| 39. | PA-2733 | Asif Ali |
| 40. | PA-2734 | Mohammad Saleh |
| 41. | PA-2735 | Syed Zair Hussain |
| 42. | PA-2736 | Ijaz Ull Din Khan |
| 43. | PA-2737 | Nazir Ull Haq Sheikh |
| 44. | PA-2738 | Syed Mohammad Raza |
| 45. | PA-2739 | Mohammad Hassan Khan Durrani |
| 46. | PA-2740 | Sheikh Mohammad Akhtar |
| 47. | PA-2741 | Syed Sagad Haider |
| 48. | PA-2743 | Mohammad Hussain Tiwana |
| 49. | PA-2744 | Mohammad Saeed Malik |
| 50. | PA-2745 | Syed Abid Hussain |
| 51. | PA-2746 | Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar |
| 52. | PA-2747 | Saif Ahmed Qureshi |
| 53. | PA-2748 | Ashgar Ali Jilani |
| 54. | PA-2749 | Habib Ur Rehman Qadri |
| 55. | PA-2751 | Mahmud Uz Zaman Hamid |
| 56. | PA-2752 | Mahmud Ahmed Kreshi |
| 57. | PA-2753 | Mohammad Akhtar Rizwani |
| 58. | PA-2754 | Rajab Abdul Hussain Vazir |
| 59. | PA-2755 | Rehmat Ali Shah |
| 60. | PA-2756 | Ejaz Ahmed Vahidy |
| 61. | PA-2757 | Qazi Mahmud Ur Rehman |
| 62. | PA-2758 | Sardar Mohammad Hussain Shikori |

**HERO OF OPERATION GRAND SLAM MAJOR
RAJA IQBAL WITH THE MAN WHO STOPPED
INDIAN FIRST ARMoured DIVISION AT
GADGOR ON 8TH SEP 1965 – MAJOR SYED
MOHAMMAD AHMAD 25 CAVALRY
GUIDES**

DEDICATED TO REGIMENTAL
HISTORY

**Copyright
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Regt Hist
Group**



**MAJ
RAJA
IQBAL**

**MAJ
SYED
AHMAD**

**SHARED MOST GRACIOUSLY BY COL RAJA NASIR IQBAL
SON OF GENERAL RAJA IQBAL**

THE MAN WHO STOPPED INDIAN 1ST ARMoured DIVISION ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 1965

**THE MAN WHO STOPPED INDIAN 1ST ARMoured DIVISION ON 8TH
SEPTEMBER 1965**

The Photo above reminds us of the Role Played by Brigadier Muhammad Ahmad in 1965 War. He could not Attend the Un-veiling of the Platinum Jubilee Ceremony, as he was sick. A Year Later he Passed Away but his Memories would Remain Fresh as Always in the Hearts and Minds of his old Colleagues and the Families of the Fraternity of 1st PMA Long Course

The location of the Platinum Jubilee Monument was so Central, that many visitors and even some of the Course Mates and their families, visit it regularly. Some pictures of the visits to the Monument and the Army Museum are placed below: -



Mahmud with Akbar, Mona, Fariseh and Malaika



Mahmud with Akbar, Mona, Fariseh and Malaika



Mahmud with Colonel Asad, Kamal Abdullah and Omer



Visit to the Army Museum



Visit of the Veterans and their Families to the Army Museum

Chapter 22

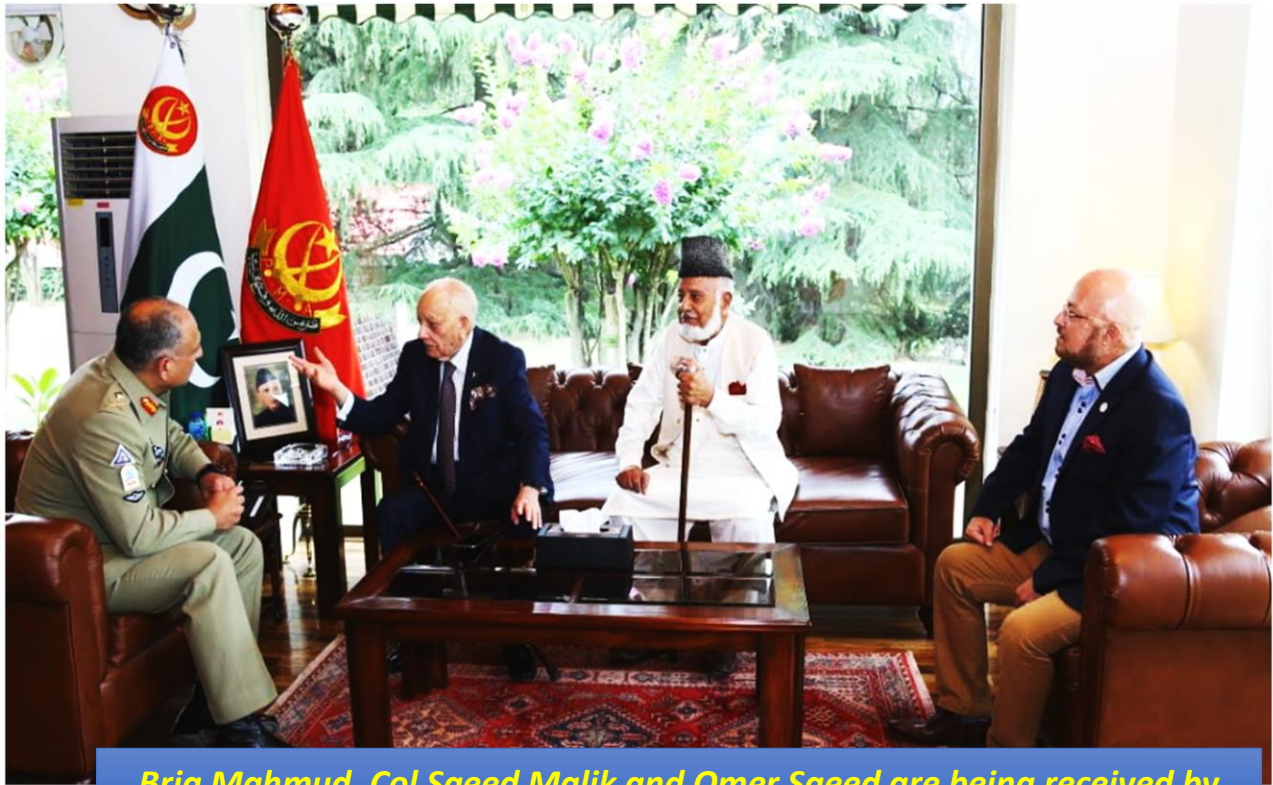
The Presentation of Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Shields to Commandant PMA, Kakul

With the setting up of the two Monuments of our Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee at the premises of PMA, Kakul, and later raising of the Platinum Jubilee Monument at the Army Museum, Rawalpindi; we completed all our official formalities for the recognition of our Course, 1st PMA Long Course, as truly the Pioneers of the prestigious institution of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. We hope these Monuments will leave behind a permanent name for our Course for prosperity to remember and recognize us. We now felt that the last official ceremony we should hold, before we all fade away from our worldly assignments, should be to present shields of our Diamond Jubilee and Platinum Jubilee Celebrations to the Commandant Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul. We had two simple, but elegant shields made. Through Major General (Retd) Shakeel Hussain, we arranged a visit to PMA, Kakul, to present these shields. Our intention was that the three of us, who are now living and are on our feet, should visit PMA to perform the ritual. But Zafar, though having earlier shown his willingness, backed out of it. It was left to Saeed Malik and Mahmud to represent the Course and they were accompanied by Omar Saeed. The date fixed for the visit was 15th July, 2022. The Commandant, Major General Umar Ahmad Bokhari, was ready to receive us despite his hectic schedule of activities. When we reached the Gates of the Academy, we were shocked to learn that the security clearance for our visit had not yet arrived from GHQ. We could not fathom the reasons!

While we were still thinking in our mind as to what we should do, we got the message that regardless of that, Commandant is willing to meet with us and we were escorted to the Guest Rooms of the Academy. After freshening up, we were again escorted to the office of the Commandant at the appointed time. Major General Bokhari was very pleased to receive us. He expressed his apologies for the confusion about the date not being confirmed for lack of GHQ clearance, but attributed it to lack of staff co-ordination. He enthusiastically exchanged views with us and was very keen to know our past remembrances and associations with the Academy from those very early days. It was a good discussion and he asked us as to what would be our suggestions as to how the training at the Academy be pursued and any guide lines that we may have. The informal discussions were over and then we had the official Ceremony of the Presentation of the Shields commemorating our Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Functions. The Commandant appreciated the shields and in particular their quality. He promised that they will find a worthy place at which these should be kept as a remembrance of our Course. Mahmud presented a copy of his book to the Commandant and copies were given for the different Libraries

We then went around PMA, in particular to see our Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee Monuments. They needed some repair and renovation work and we offered our help for that. But the Staff of PMA promised us that they will do the needful. They also promised that they will in the future carry out the regular maintenance and keep these monuments in good shape. We have been informed that the needful has been done. We plan to make another visit to PMA to see the work done. When this Book on 1st PMA Long Course is completed, copies of these will be sent to PMA, and all other libraries maintained by the Army. I hope it proves worthy of us, as the Pioneer Course of the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul.

The photographs taken on the occasion are placed below:-



Brig Mahmud, Col Saeed Malik and Omer Saeed are being received by Major General Umar Ahmad Bokhari in his Office



Brig Mahmud and Col Saeed Looking on at the Diamond Jubilee Monument



Mahmud, Saeed and Omar Looking at the Golden Jubilee Document





Mahmud Presenting his Book to Major General Bokhari



Mahmud and Saeed are Presenting the Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Shields to Major General Bokhari



THE LAST THREE LIVING VETERANS OF 1ST PMA LONG COURSE,
WITH GENERAL BAJWA AT THE UN-VEILING OF
PLATINUM JUBILEE MONUMENT

